QUEEN'S UNIVERSITY ARCHIVES
FILE
BOX
DONOR

William Johnston born
at Tinas River Lower Canada
February 14 day 1782

Anna Maria Johnston born 1st day
[illegible] in [illegible]
Anna Catharine Johnston born at [illegible]
Upper Canada 22 July 1808

John Johnston born 2 February 1810
[illegible]

William Johnston [illegible] 1812
[illegible]

John Mosiah [illegible] 3[illegible] 1811

Napoleon Bonaparte Johnston 27 [illegible] 1814

John Salsberry Johnston 11 Sept 1816

Stephen Decatur Johnston 4 July 1821

Catherine Johnston 11 Sept 1819

Billa Johnston 30 August 1822

1.

Sons of James Johnston from Belfast

Mr. Tho Catherine Kirk & Wife Nancy
Tho Johnston Grandfather Johnston from
Belfast Ireland Died at Rock Creek
Aged 104 Years

Sons of James Johnston Catherine
Daniel Johnston
Hannah Johnston
Isabel Johnston
Andrew Johnston
Barbary Johnston
Polly Johnston
William Johnston
James Johnston
Enoch C. R Johnston
Nathan Johnston
Catherine Johnston

2.

Johnston, James wls 2.9.1804 bur[2] 5.27.1810
= Anne Catharine
→ Mary[2] bp 5.11.1788 = Wm. Juel[2] 11.28.1805
James[2] bp 7.4.1790 wls 2.6.1811
Nathan[2] bp 3.24.1793
Jacob Curtiss Russel bp 2.12.1796

Daniel = Zebiah Shoney[2] 11.2.1789
wls 4.23.1784, 2.28.1792, 11.28.1805
→ David[2] 9.30.1790
James[2] bp 12.16.1792
Alathea[2] bp 9.28.1794
Kaly[2] bp 2.26.1797
Ruth[2] bp 2.24.1799
Andrew Thompson[2] bp 4.19.1801
Israel Curtis[2] bp 5.15.1803
Hannah Hawley[2] bp 7.21.1805
Mary[2] bp 8.16.1807
Elizabeth Anne[2] bp 5.18.1809
Sarah Anne[2] bp 2.9.1812

Jacob = Elizabeth
→ Conrad[2] bp 12.25.1794

John[2] = Rachel Cating[2] 11.11.1805
→ Thomas Cook[2] bp 11.23.1806
Julia Margaret Ann Shenton bp 7.15.1808
William Adolphus[2] bp 2.24.1811
James[2] bp 2.7.1813

Andrew = Lucretia
→ Mary Anne[2] bp 3.1.1807
Thomas Plummer[2] bp 3.28.1809 bur[2] 5.25.1809
Eve[2] bp 5.11.1813 bur[2] 5.13.1813

Johnston, William = Sarah Anne wds 11.28.1805

— 7 James Edward Jewel [2] bp 7.21.1809

Anne Catharine [2] bp 2.28.1809 bur [2] 9.9.1812 [1]

Adah Maria [1] bp 2.24.1811

William Peg [1] bp 2.1.1813

Hannah wds 7.6.1788, 12.11.1788 [2] = Sheldon Hawley [2] 2.16.1789

David [2] wds 2.16.1789, 2.11.1799

Isabel wds 4.23.1789, 11.2.1789, 8.10.1791, 2.2.1792, 2.28.1792 =

[2] = William Curtis [2] 11.8.1792

Alethea [2] = John Coote [2] 1.6.1811

Elizabeth bur [2] 3.—.1819

U. E. List

James	2	O.C. 24th Feby, 1807 -- restored -- + James Johnston, Fredericksburgh, O.C. 14th Feb., 1807 -- suspended. This one, a soldier in Jessup's. Fredericksburgh James. P.L.1786, 4 from Ireland.
Andrew	2	Son of Sergt. James Johnston.
Daniel	2	" " " " " " 4 Ernest Town. L.B.M.
Lt. Wm	M. Dist.	Son of Sir John (natural)
Wm	2	Capt. Indian Dept., P.L.1786
William	M. Dist	One a soldier from Loyal Rangers from Yorkshire, N.P.

U. E. List Supp.

Judah	Prov'd at Calanaqui.
John	S. Prov'd at Johnstown, R.R.N.Y. J.7.
Samuel	A wife + 2 children
Jacob	S
Patrick	B. Rangers
Charles	J. a soldier R.R.N.Y. muster Roll

2

U. E. List Supp (contd)

Jonathan Soldier Royal Rangers
Jacob Son of Conrad Johnson. T. Dix.

Loy. Claims

James Asst. Patent, Chan. Co. 1027

Loy. Claims Witnesses

James, Kingsbury, Chan. Co. 1011
Artillery Patent, Chan. Co. 433

L.B.O.

James. 3.4.89 ½ lot 4 conc 4 Thurlow
John " ½ " 5 " 4 "
William (Capt) 8.15.91 Ind. Dept. recd. 750 desc 2,250.
" " 4.5.91 Rec that he be put on equal footing with soldiers of 84th.
" 1789 200 ac in Thurlow.
" 8.26.89 lot 10 conc 3 Thurlow.
" 9.12.91 was before the Ld. Committee sometime last winter, & (coinciding a certs. from Samuel Shepherd, Esq., & the representations of Mrs Collins, Esq.) it was then conceived that of right he ought to have a preference to the disputed half of lot 11/4 It appears now to this Committee that if Mrs. Chisholm obtained no certs. from the Board he can have no legal claim, as the Dep. Surv.-Gen did not grant him one.
" 7.3.95. Capt., half pay Capt. in the Ind. Dept: stating he had petitioned the Council of Lower Canada for the following lots of the Tp. of Lower Town, Nos. 37, 38, 39, 40 & 41, 2nd conc; 37, 38, 39, 40 & 41, 3d conc; 38, & 50 ac. No 39 4th conc. in all 2250 acres to compleat the quantity he is entitled to of 3000 acres having drawn only 750 acs. Ordered that the petitioner's claim be admitted as to the quantity of ld, but referred to Surv. Gen. as to location of the lots.

Johnston

L. B. O. (contd).

Andrews. 6·20·97 Praying Ld as settlm. Rec. 200 ℔ not granted before.

Henry " do do

James 8·30·97 L. B. Certs. Rec 200 ℔ not granted before

" 11·16·97 Praying for mil. lots. as sergt. Discharge or certs. to be produced.

W^m 1·11·98 Lot 11 conc 1. Thurlow

St. Georges

?

"

Emeltown Muster Roll Oct. 7 1784

James 1 1 1 3 2 0 0 8 6½ 1ac. woman sick.

List of Unincorp. Loyalists sist. at Montreal 24 Jan 1784

Mrs W^m 0 1 1+6 0 1 of the Ind. dept.

"There were sent to me from Massish."

James, wife + 5 children.

Return of ~~Officers~~ of Ind. Dept. Recommended for ½ pay

W^m Capt 9 yrs service, from Boston, N. Eng. A gunsmith.

Left the Colonies in 1775. Appointed a Lieut in 1780

& a Capt. in June 1783. at Catarauqui

Lennox & Addington Wills

Conrad No. 441 Blk. G E

Executors: Charles Smith & David Perry

Legatee: Eliza Bell

List of Unincorp. Loyalists desirous of settling in Canada

James 1 1 0 0 0 0 2 Sorel 27th 1784

Johnston

Return of Refugees & Disch Troops at Lachine 19 Sep 1784

Capt Wm Johnson 1 1 1 0 1 1 Ind. Dept. Gone on lands

Ret. of Lincoln Reg. Sessions of sett in Com 2 Feb 1784

Wm Johnson 1 1 at St Johns.

James Johnston 1 1

New York in the Revolution

Estates Confiscated

Capt. Johnston

P.B.Q

Henry & Andrew Johnson had settled here to open up the way for Methodism in Prince Edward (Picton)

Miss Johnson = Adolph Hawley (son of Davis Hawley)
set. Bath. He b. circ 1800

Elizabeth Johnson = James Rankin (son of James, the Teacher)

Sarah (dau of John Johnson, of London Eng) = Chas Van Vlack
she b. 1814 d 1896. set Wampoos.

Julia A. Johnson = John Vrooman: set. Cornettown

Mrs. Ann Johnson = 2d wife Daniel Young: set Athol.
his gr. father b 1737



JOHN JOHNSON (PROBABLY)
1831-1884

PHOTO TAKEN IN PORT HOPE



OLIVE BABCOCK
WIFE OF JOHN JOHNSON SR
1800-02—1880

PHOTO TAKEN IN PORT HOPE



ROBERT BARZILLA MAYBEE
1835-1919/20
FATHER OF CLARISSA JOHNSON
PHOTO TAKEN ABOUT 1890



JEAN JOHNSON
(MRS. BROWN)
1872-1946

PHOTO TAKEN IN TRENTON ABOUT 1890



HIRAM JOHNSON
1827-1895



Humours of '37 -- Grave Gay and Grim
Rebellion Times in the Canadas
by Robina and Kathleen M. Lizars.

P. 162 Gallows Hill

We follow the sun through the Thousand Islands, where it touched each evergreen crest with glory to make a crown of isles for the great pirate king, Bill Johnston, who had a trick of posing, blunderbuss in hand, ready for attack; to the homes of the Bay of Quinté, where the descendants of Rogers' Rangers were ready for defence; to the winter rainbows of the Muskoka and the opaline ripples in La Traverse of the St. Clair. It tinged the spiral columns of smoke which singly rose from immigrant cabins and, mingling, turned to clouds of sweet-smelling incense. It sank to rest in Huron, and the vast country over which it had made its day's journey lay behind it, angry, sullen, fearing, uncertain, where, of the two dispensations, one was in throes of birth and the other feared those of death.

P. 231 Autocrats All.

The destruction of the Caroline surprised everyone, Americans, Canadians, even the chief actors; it let loose the tongues of ministers and diplomats, and it gave a great impulse to the outside movement of sympathizers or
P. 232 patriots. The success of Drew's action made the last wary; but the howl of indignation, which for a time was allowed to have some show of reason, served as a cloak under which to add retaliation to what before had been dubbed patriotism alone. Sugar Island, Bois Blanc, and the schooner Anne followed in quick succession; but the most direct outrage as a result of it was that against the Sir Robert Peel, under the management of an autocrat on the other side of

the warfare, handsome and distinguished looking as MacNab himself, determined as Drew, uncompromising as Prince, with an air and halo of romance over all his actions arising partly from his personality, partly from the romantic beauty of his surroundings — the redoubtable Bill Johnston, king of the Thousand Islands.

General Van Rensselaer, in sash and epaulets, with his encampment on Navy Island, backed by two or three hundred vagabonds, making war upon Great Britain, was a ridiculous person. But Bill Johnston, the buccaneer, armed to the teeth, actuated by revenge for real injuries, carrying out his threat to be a thorn in Great Britain's side, flying from island to island, a price set upon his head, determined to sell his life at desperate cost, devoted to his daughter and adored by his children has a touch of poetry about him which almost justified what he devoutly believed himself — that it was a glorious thing to be a pirate king. It is a come-down to have to admit that one of his occupations was robbing the Canadian mails, when he would take the clothes off the occupants of the coach and beat whoever refused him, tie the coachman to a tree — as he did between Gananoque and Kingston — and leave the man there. He once captured a dragoon carrying despatches, took the man and his horse to the lake shore, shot the horse, put the despatch-bag in his boat, and let the man find his way on foot to report himself to his captain P. 233

This was the personage concerning whom Silas Fletcher one of the refugees from Gallows Hill, wrote from Watertown to Navy Island, that he was a man in whom it was perfectly safe to confide," a gentleman of intelligence, equal to fifty ordinary men", recommended for a commission because he could "greatly

annoy the Kingstonians", his influence so great that he could raise two hundred as bold volunteers as ever drew triggers. Some of the sympathizers had a faculty for arousing admiration; for about this time a lady in Rochester, who kept a private school where some Toronto girls were sent, allowed her pupils to work a silken flag to be presented to the pirate force.

Johnston and his followers had many disguises. In their attacks on isolated farm-houses it was their pleasure to adopt the dress of ordinary sailors, and in their expedition to the island of Tanti — a Canadian possession of Lord Mountcashel, from which they took much plunder, and where they left one farmer with three fingers and part of a hand shot off — the whole mise-en-scène is absurdly like "H.M.S. Pinafore". From island to island, from rock to the hidden fastnesses, keeping in the narrower channels where inclined planes were cleverly constructed by which to draw up their fast boats, the only clue to their haunts was a surprise shot from some ambush or the expiring embers of a lately deserted bivouac fire, or perhaps a couple of barrels moored in the narrowest part of Fiddler's Elbow, innocent-looking infernal machines left ready for the unwary.

French Creek — A-ten-ha-ra-kweh-ta-re, the place where the wall fell down — Abel's Island and some other points were his
P. 234 favourites; but Fort Wallace, a small islet at the head of Well's Island, was his fastness, where, with a dozen men, he boasted he could withstand two-hundred. The number of boats scattered up and down the islands was popularly supposed to be one hundred, and the population of this world of islets some thousand souls, all under the sway of Johnston. Rinaldo, Robert Kidd and Robert le Diable seemed centred in him. He could land at Queenston unarmed and get the guard tipsy, and with a few companions take off seventy stand of arms. But

his experience as smuggler and trader, and his exploits when in the employment of the American Government during the war of 1812, when he roamed all the lakes and rivers, intercepting despatches, and when, his boat driven in by a gale on the Canadian shore and his crew captured, he could cross Ontario — at that point thirty-six miles wide — in a bark canoe after a fortnight's dodging of British vessels, made such affairs as came to his hand in '37 seem bagatelles. In the early days he had at his command a six-oared barge; now he and his four sons, the latter all partaking of his own nature, powers and daring, did their work in four row-boats of extraordinary speed, each boat with a crew of eight or ten men and all armed to the teeth. The boat used by Johnston himself was twelve-oared, the swiftest of the fleet, twenty-eight feet by four and a half, clinker-built and gay with paint. Black bottom, white above, with a yellow streak six inches wide below the gunwale, inside red, so light in weight that two men could carry her with ease, but capable of accommodating twenty armed men, this gay-looking craft flew his own colours.

But for special use in deceiving British vessels a Stars and Stripes lay ready to hand. Not that he was under the protection of the latter; he was harried equally by United States authorities and Canadian, his capture being finally made by the latter. The most interesting member of his domestic group was his daughter, a handsome girl of nineteen, possessed of courage enough enough to manage her boat alone, armed like her brothers and skilful enough to keep her father supplied with provisions on those exciting occasions when he had to hide.

P. 235

Bill Johnston and his followers were of more consequence than all the men, Provisional Government, generals and staff, on Navy Island; in the words of an American newspaper, "This chap

seems now to be conducting a war on his own hook". Wells Island was the scene of his reprisal for the burning of the Caroline; for all his own grievances, such as the confiscation of his property on the British side in 1812, he felt himself more than avenged. The island, part of Jefferson County, had not more than an acre of cleared land upon it, with a wharf used for wooding the vessels which called there for fuel; the sole building was one log shanty. When the Sir Robert Peel drew in on the evening so important to her, May 29th, 1838, the woodman warned the captain that suspicious-looking characters were inland. But the warning was made light of, and the usual frolicking programme followed. All on board went to bed, and about ten o'clock thirteen of the erstwhile sailors of the island of Tanti appeared in their new scene as Indians, looking the part to perfection in black, red and yellow paint. Their number had been twenty-eight, but they had dropped down the river from their camp on Abel's Island, on the opposite side to the wood station, and in crossing fifteen of the band had been temporarily lost in a swamp. The debate whether this left too small a number for the attack
P. 236 led to delay, but Johnston decided that a baker's dozen was a lucky number, and that if this opportunity were lost another as favourable might not offer itself. So the warwhoop, as good an imitation as their painted semi-nudeness, was raised. One discrepancy was the absence of tomahawks, replaced by guns and bayonets. The woods re-echoed to their howls, and it was not long until captain, crew and passengers were on deck.

Colonel Fraser, Mr. Holditch of Port Robinson, and several others, had enjoyed their evening; they took wine together, and then went to bed, their berths in a row. Soon they heard

a noise which they imagined to be a scuffle among the crew; but in a twinkling five men stood by the berths where they still lay, four, armed with bayonets and muskets and the fifth with a sword. At the command to get up at once Mr. Holditch laid his hand upon Colonel Fraser's military coat, and the ruffian with the sword seeing the colour, called out, "He is a British officer — run him through!" A general disowning of Her Majesty's uniform ensued, but a lively fight took place for possession of the pocket-book, which contained a large sum of money. After much kicking and knocking down most of the men were forced into a small cabin, lighted by a skylight through which muskets were pointed at them, keeping them quiet until a panel was broken out of the door and one by one they were allowed to leave. The women were all driven on deck in their night-clothes; their cries were distressing but Captain Bullock, formerly of the St. George, and the stewardess, contrived to mitigate circumstances for them. The dramatic Sea-King was not going to allow such an opportunity for the Magpie to escape him. As he knocked at the ladies' cabin door a courageous female tried to stop his further entrance, begging time
P. 237 to dress. "Come with me", said Bombastes, "come with me and I will save you — the nations are at war".

It was a most inclement night, and they took refuge in the shanty. There one of the brigands remarked that the occupants of the Peel had got their deserts, whereupon Captain Bullock knocked him down and dragged him out by the throat. The amount of loot was not inconsiderable, and as soon as the vessel was rifled of it she was set on fire and allowed to drift. The mate must have been a sound sleeper, as he knew none of the happenings until rescue was nearly past. His shrieks for help came after the pirates had

and the passengers dispersed, but some of the latter managed to reach him in a skiff. They were barely in time, for he had to jump into the water so badly burned that he had to be tended by the half-dressed passengers all night.

It was supposed to be the intention to thus serve all British steamers, so that Johnston's whaleboats should have no interference in St. Lawrence waters thereabouts in piracy and invasion. In this particular instance, one of the passengers, an Irishman, vigorously protested from the island:

"The divil saze the likes of ye, ye're worse than the Connaught Rangers, wid yer injun nayger faces."

"Remember the Caroline, Pat," retorted a pirate.

"Is it Caroline Mahoney, ye mane? — sure it's not at the likes of you she'd be after lookin'."

They essayed to get Pat on board, telling him to "come and get his duds". "Do ye think I'll go aboard and see myself kilt?" he asked. They then tried to get near him, but with "Bad luck to ye. There's two can play at that, me darlin'," he oped into the woods. One of the party was a prisoner from Abel's Island, and he was left to look after Scanlan, one of the crew, who had been badly wounded in the scuffle. P. 238

By sunrise, while the Robert Peel still burned, the pirates were back at Abel's Island, washed and clothed. The passengers were taken off Wells' Island by the U. S. steamer Oneida and left at Kingston. After this the pirate boats were mounted with two and three-pounders, while Johnston and his followers played hide-and-seek with his pursuers, managing to elude two steamboats, one schooner, and a number of gunboats which were doubling and cross-cutting in his wake.

When Governor Marcy, of New York, received information of this act, which Johnston himself allowed to be piracy, he

went to the frontier and took active measures to guard his own border from the retaliation which he dreaded, and also to combine with the Canadians in offering a reward for Johnston's arrest. Such banditti like the cowboys of the Revolution, argued that it mattered not who was plundered, provided there was booty to be found. In the grandiloquent words of their own chronicle, the Sir Robert Peel was "a burnt-offering to the shades of the Caroline". As to Canadian reprisals, there was much talk of firing upon United States vessels wherever found, an unjust opinion existing that they were at one with "Admiral" Johnston's crafts. But better sense prevailed, and as one newspaper says, "Let their steamboats depart from our shores in peace." Such a Nunc Dimittis, opening with an exhortation to high-mindedness, "Men of Chatham! the eyes of Europe are upon you!" was penned at Chatham, where the burning of an American vessel was insisted upon as retaliation for a local act of outrage.

The action taken by Sir George Arthur concerning the indictment of similar outlaws elsewhere after they were caught,
P 239 treating them as prisoners of war, exasperated the Loyalists; they claimed it was establishing a precedent for all the Bill Johnstons and marauders, who were either rebels in their own country or filibusters from the one opposite: "This is, in fact, a bounty upon invasion, and taken in connection with Mackenzie's reward of 300 acres of land, made it easy for a man to hedge with tolerable assurance of not coming to grief either way." "These be indeed liberal times." What Bill Johnston thought of it all may be seen from his proclamation, issued immediately after he had first openly paraded the streets of Ogdensburg with his belt stuck full of pistols, dirks and bowie knives:

"To all whom it may concern:

"I, William Johnston, a native-born citizen of Upper Canada, certify that I hold a commission in the Patriot service of Upper Canada as commander-in-chief of the naval forces and flotilla. I commanded the expedition that captured and destroyed the steamer Sir Robert Peel. The men under my command in that expedition were nearly all natural-born English subjects; the exceptions were volunteers for the expedition. My head-quarters was on an island in the St. Lawrence, without the jurisdiction of the United States, at a place named by me Fort Wallace. I am well acquainted with the boundary line, and know which of the islands do and do not belong to the United States; and in the selection of the island I wished to be positive, and not locate within the jurisdiction of the United States, and had reference to the decision of the Commissioners under the sixth article of the Treaty of Ghent, done at Utica, in the State of New York, 13th June, 1822. I know the number of the
P. 240 island, and by that decision it was British territory. I yet hold possession of that station, and we also occupy a station some twenty or more miles from the boundary line of the United States, in what was Her Majesty's dominions until it was occupied by us. I act under orders. The object of my movement is the independence of Canada. I am not at war with the commerce or property of the people of the United States.

"Signed, this tenth day of June, in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and thirty-eight

"William Johnston".

The result of the proclamation, which was published in the American newspapers, was a reward offered by Governor Marcy of $500 for the author's arrest, $250 each for that of

D. M'Leod and two others, and $100 each for the rest. The Canadian Government offered £1000 for the conviction of any of them.

But it is a long lane that has no turning. The defeat at Prescott once more sent the Johnstons and their followers to the same retreats of the river intricacies. An old soldier of the 79th was given the hazardous mission to search them out; but the only result was a shot or two from an unseen and vanishing enemy, and a specimen of the finest tourmalin to add to his geological cabinet. Bonnycastle put some of his staff with a band on board a small steamer, ostensibly to visit the military garrisons of Gananoque, Brockville and Prescott, returning by night in the hope that Johnston would attack them. With excellent steering they escaped the infernal machines moored for them, but saw nought of the enemy.

Sir John Colborne, with his one notion of government, had a large body of sailors and marines forwarded from Quebec
P. 241 harbour, then full of men-of-war, steamboats and merchantmen drawn there by the arrival of Lord Durham. A company of the 1st Frontenac Militia went to the island of Tonti, and the border-town garrisons were strongly reinforced with picked men. But Johnston only laughed at them all, and scudded along in his mysterious boat. About eight feet of the after-part of this craft was decked, and on this he sat while he steered with an oar, a red carpet-bag for his cushion seat. In the sight of one party of pursuers from the steamboat Oswego they openly pulled for the wreck of the Sir Robert Peel; when the pursuers were within fifteen rods a white handkerchief was waved and Johnston majestically rose from his carpet-bag, drew from it the colours of the Sir Robert Peel, which he let wave in the breeze and then gravely returned to the bag. Another craft, evidently one of the fleet, darted up a bay;

the dark blue boat was made fast, and in a moment the crew could be seen walking through the bushes, Indian file, each with a large pistol in his right hand. In an interview held at a few boat's lengths with a deputation of two, who were old acquaintances of his, Johnston said there was one thing of which they might rest assured — he would never be taken alive; that he was a fair mark to shoot at, but not to dangle in the air. He might have quoted

"To die for treason is a common evil,
But to be hanged for nonsense is the devil."

He announced that at that moment he had two other boats well manned and armed within signal view; that he sat upon the colours of the Sir Robert Peel, and that he meant to continue sitting on them "till they rotted." The interviewers could see for themselves that his boat was well stored with muskets and small arms. When told that his
P. 242 son's wharf at French Creek was then patronized for wood by one of the steamers, "he seemed much affected," replying, "I am glad to hear it, or of anything else that can benefit my family."

At this time Johnston appeared a robust, athletic man, absolutely fearless, about sixty years of age, a gray-headed, hardy veteran, "a good friend and a terror to his enemies." He stated that whoever attacked him must bring his own coffin, as he himself had no leisure for cabinet-making.

A simultaneous movement was made on him by a party of British soldiers, and some of the 1st Regiment of American Infantry under Captain Gwynn of the American army. The men were conveyed in two steamboats, the Experiment and the Telegraph, and in a gunboat under Lieutenant Leary, R.N., the Bullfrog. They found two of the bandits fast asleep in the

cave, but on account of the roughness of the surrounding country the attack was not well concerted, and the rest of the band, including Johnston, escaped. A quantity of arms and ammunition was found in the cave, but a thorough search by the soldiers, eighty in number and cutlasses in hand, revealed no trace of them.

At another time, General MacNab with some fifty United States soldiers, cruising about in search of this will-o'-the-wisp, found the home but its occupant gone. It proved to be a spacious cavern, into which they penetrated about thirty feet, part natural cavity, part excavated by labour, fit for dwelling-place for a large body of men, and in the several rooms which it contained there were signs of recent occupation.

Mr. James, an artillery officer of Ogdensburg, had met with the loss of a brass six-pounder, pressed into the patriot service during the excitement of the battle of the Windmill.

P. 243 At the end of that affair so disastrous to the sympathisers, Bill Johnston suddenly disappeared from the streets of Ogdensburg. Not long after this Mr. James' wife was doing her marketing as usual, being one of the few ladies who were not intimidated by the scare at the water front. While chatting with friends whom she met in the course of her morning's walk, one said, "If you knew where your husband is you would not be so full of laughter." Word had been brought into town that Bill Johnston was in hiding in the woods near by, and two parties, hurriedly got together, had gone off in search. One party composed of Charles T. Burwell and James, on horseback, the other of United States soldiers who were to meet the first at a given rendezvous. On arriving at the place the two horsemen found young Johnston sitting by the shore waiting for his father. After some resistance young Johnston was taken, his boat seized and the oars hidden. The

capture of the father was not so easy. When he caught sight of the three he rushed to where he expected to find the boat, warning the townsmen to keep off. He had a pistol in each hand, but demurred to use them, as his pursuers were "fellow-Americans." After considerable parley, when he realized that the second party, momentarily expected by boat, would put him beyond hope, he surrendered. But he stipulated that his son should receive his arms, he himself, to retain only four small pistols and his bowie knife; he then quietly fell in with James and Burwell for the return to Ogdensburg. A very short walk brought them to the other party just arrived, United States soldiers, a sheriff and deputy marshall, to whom Bill Johnston was delivered. In spite of the large
P. 244 sums offered as reward for his capture, the testimony is that James' share no more than reimbursed the latter for the loss of the brass six-pounder, for the safe custody of which he had been responsible. They placed Johnston on a steam-boat in government employ under Colonel Worth, and so he disappears.

P. 334 Deborahs of '37.

The isolated farm-houses in the eastern part of Upper Canada and in Lower Canada suffered severely from the wanton attacks of rebels and sympathisers; and as for the terrors, the woes, the tears of the Lower Canadian women and children at the hands of the military, what pen can tell, what tongue describe them. On the island of Tanti a band of Bill Johnston's marauders attacked the lonely farm occupied by a family named Preston. The mother, of truly heroic mould, regardless of numbers and the sentinels at her doors, contrived to get abroad to alarm her few neighbours. All her worldly goods, money, provisions, arms, were taken,

one son died of his wounds, and the husband barely escaped with his life. What could such islanders do? Hickory Island had as its tenant one lone widow.

WILLIAM JOHNSTON.

THE SETTLEMENT OF UPPER CANADA. CANNIFF.

p. 109. James Johnston, an Irishman, was a soldier in Rogers Batt'n. Came to Upper Canada with first settlers of Ernesttown and was captain of the cattle-drivers that came at that time or a year later. Got his location ticket at Carleton Island. Had a family of 7 sons and 6 daughters. Six of the sons were Daniel, James, William, Matthew, Jacob, and Andrew. The last-mentioned gave the above information. He is upwards of 100 yrs of age now, ie.1869.

p. 443. Lot no. 9 of Ernesttown, 1st conc. owned by James Johnston, father of the celebrated "Bill" Johnston, the traitor of 1812.

HISTORY OF LENNOX AND ADDINGTON COUNTY, 1913. W. S. HERRINGTON.

p. 197. WILLIAM JOHNSTON whose headquarters was Hickory Island below Gananoque, with a few kindred spirits came in boats to the north shore of Amherst Island and in the dead of night attacked the house of Mr. Preston. They placed guards at the entrance and proceeded to attack andplunder the inmates. Mrs. Preston eluded the guards and proceeded to give the alarm. Preston and his sons attacked, one of the latter receiving a slight bullet wound in the arm from a pistol shot. The pirates beat a hasty retreat when the alarm was given.

In the Company of Volunteers enrolled for the defence of the Island were
ROBERT BURLEIGH, paymaster-sergeant. JAMES COSTELLO, private.
COMPLETE COPY OF ABOVE.

There is a short chapter of Canadian History which you will not find in any of the school histories. It may be classed with the Battle of the Windmill at Prescott as one of the closing scenes of the Mackenzie Rebellion of 1837-8, although not so serious in its results.

Having met with no better success on the Niagara frontier than at Montgomery's Tavern, it seems that Mackenzie turned his steps eastward and planned a night attack on Kingston over the frozen river in the Winter of 1838. For some reason the attack was not made, although the soldiers and citizens of the Limestone City were quite prepared to receive him and any who might choose to accompany him.

"Two filibusters, Bill Johnston, a Canadian and Van Rensselaer, an American, did, however, get a large number of patriots collected at Hickory Island, below Gananoque, but these nearly all dispersed when they heard that the volunteer militia was ready to march against them.

"Bill Johnston and a few kindred spirits, however, remained in their hiding-places among the Thousand Islands, eluding the vigilance of the authorities of the law, and living the lives of pirates and outlaws for a time. They took possession of the steamer, Sir Robert Peel, and after robbing the passengers and plundering the ship, set fire to her.

"They also came in boats to the north shore of Amherst Island, and in the dead hours of the night made an attack on the house of Mr. Preston. They placed guards at the entrance and then proceeded to attack and plunder the inmates. Mrs. Preston managed, however, to elude the guards and proceeded to give the alarm. Bill and his gang of ruffians met with a warm reception from Mr. Preston and his brave sons, one of whom was slightly wounded by a pistol shot. The pirates beat a hasty retreat when the alarm was given. This wanton attack naturally alarmed the citizens of good Isle Tanti, as it was then called; for what safety could they have in their homes with such a gang of lawless desperados hovering about. A company of volunteers was soon enrolled, armed and placed under of Capt. John S. Cumming. A stone house had just been built by William Gelson, on his farm, opposite "The Brothers". Within its strong walls the company was stationed for a time until a suitable barracks was built on the Patterson farm at a point in full view of the Lower Gap. Here the men were quartered until peace was restored and they were disbanded, each man being allowed to take his flint-lock home with him. In this age of long range rifles the old

flint-locks would be consiedred out of date. Yet in the hands of these hardy pioneers they would no doubt have rendered effective service. The great victory of Waterloo had been won twenty-three years before with exactly the same kind of weapons. But the enemy no doubt considering that discretion is the better part of valour' kept away from our shores.
These men, who in troublous times, stood ready to defend their country and their homes, have all answered the last 'roll call', but their names and their menories will long be remembered with respect on Amherst Island.
The barracks in which they were quartered have long since disappeared, and the stone house above referred to, situated near the North Shore on the farm since owned by Capt. Henry Saunders is now an uninhabited ruin; sic tempora mutantur".
(Among the list of 71 officers and men of this company is found--Robert Burleigh, pay-sergeant; and James Costello, private.).

CHRONICLE AND GAZETTE, KINGSTON, ONT. WED., AUG. 28, 1839.
(Copied from Watertown American).

William Johnston, better known by the name of Bill Johnston, was arrested in New York, on Monday, on a bench warrant, and brought to this village on Thursday last, where he offered bail, and the Deputy Sheriff from Albany, who had him in charge, went with him to Adams to see Judge Wright, about taking the proper recognizance. Judge Wright, we learn, was willing to release Mr. Johnston, but demanded bail to the amount of $10,000, which Johnston considered exorbitant, and paramount to being placed in durance vile. He offered bail to the amount of $5,000 which was not acceded to. The Deputy Sheriff and Mr. Johnston then left Adams for Watertown, whither Judge Wright was to follow for the purpose of making out the bond, etc. They arrived here after nightfall, when Johnston, having acted perfectly honorable and in candor thus far, obtained permission to look out for some of his bail ---- since which time he has not been seen ----having given leg bail, instead of bail bonds for his appearance at court. The Sheriff after all his trouble, left here on Saturday, retracing his steps "solitary and alone" and quite chopfallen. The next time he gets hold of Bill Johnston it is not over and above probable he will allow him to go out of his sight.



ZAVIKON ISLAND, MR. ANDREW McLEAN. 1000 ISLANDS. CANADA — U. S.

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JOHNSONS—

Henry Johnson was born at New Jersey, 1755, where he lived till the rebellion, when he removed to Poughkeepsie. In June, 1788, being a loyalist, he came with his brother Andrew to Canada, enduring many privations and hardships. He settled in Hallowell, where he lived until his death, which took place 28th May, 1829, being in his 73rd year. "He was noted for his hospitality-charitable to the poor without ostentation, a pious christian. For the last five years he suffered much."

ANDREW JOHNSON—

Among the combatants, we have given the name of James Johnson; here we design to give a place to some account of his two sons, Andrew and William, or "Bill," as he was commonly called, a name yet remembered by many.

Perhaps there is not now living a more interesting historic character than Andrew Johnson, residing in the vicinity of Belleville. A native of New York State, Gainesborough, he came in with his father at the first settlement of Upper Canada. He was an eye witness of the first days of Ernesttown, and Kingston. At the beginning of the present century he was known as an unusually rapid walker. Andrew was engaged in carrying the mail from Kingston to York. Mr.Stuart was his employer. His route was by the Bay Shore to Adolphustown, across the Bay, at the Stone Mills, by Picton and Wellington, to the Carrying Place; and thence along the Lake shore, fording streams as best he could, often upon a fallen tree, or by swimming. He would spend five hours in York and then start back. These trips were generally made once a fortnight. He subsequently lived at Bath for forty years, where he kept a tavern, and strangely enough, as he avers, he never drank liquor in his life.

His father's log house was used by Rev.Mr.Stuart to preach in for three years, before the frame building was erected on the hill, which would hold thirty or forty persons. It was a story and a-half high. Andrew Johnson is now upwards of a hundred. Although his memory is somewhat defective he retains a great deal of bodily vigor; and eats and sleeps wel He rarely converses unless spoken to. He is a man of somewhat low stature, small frame, with spare limbs. Mr.Lockwood, who has known him a long time, says, "He was remarkably quick in his movements. During the war, the two started to walk

from Prescott to Kingston, but Lockwood says that Johnson could walk three miles to his one. His brother, "Bill," had a fast horse, which could outrun anything. Andrew offered to bet a hundred dollars that he could travel to York quicker than the horse. Of course there was but an imperfect path, with no bridges. His offer was not accepted. Andrew was a loyal soldier in 1812, and belonged to the same companies as his brother. The old man is yet very quick in his movements, retaining that peculiar swinging gait by which he formerly so rapidly traveled long distances. His days are passing away in a quiet dream, tenderly cared for by his son, with his wife.

BILL JOHNSON — William Johnson, brother of the foregoing, was one of six sons of James Johnson, born in Ernesttown, His youthful days were spent in the vicinity of what is now the village of Bath. About the time of the commencement of the war of 1812, he was engaged in Kingston, in trading, and had a store of general merchandize. When the first draft for men was made, Johnson was one of the conscripts. For a very short time, he did service, and then procured his brother (not Andrew) as a substitute. There was not at this time any doubt of his loyalty. It was natural he should desire to attend to his business in Kingston, which at this time was lucrative. And there does not appear that he employed his brother in other than good faith. But some time after his brother entered the service, he deserted to the United States' shore. Even now it does not appear that the authorities of Kingston suspected his loyalty, for they desired that he should take his place in the ranks which his brother had forsaken. This, however, "Bill" would not do. The result was that a file of soldiers commanded by Sergeant Lockwood, (our principal informant) was sent to arrest Johnson, by order of the captain, Matthew Clark of Ernesttown.

Upon the approach of the soldiers, Johnson shouted to Sergeant Lockwood, who had been his life long playmate, "I know what you are after; but you won't get me yet," and immediately shut the door and turned the key. Lockwood, without hesitation, raised his musket, and with the butt knocked the door open, in time to see Bill escaping by the back door. A close chase ensured into a back enclosure, and Lockwood succeeded in catching him by the leg as he was passing through a window. Johnson then submitted, and was conveyed a prisoner to the guard house within the jail.

probably aided by sympathizers, for a good many thought he was badly treated.

Whatever may have been Johnson's feelings towards the British Government before, he now became a most determined enemy of his native country. He vowed he should "be a thorn in Great Britain'sside;" and his goods and some property at Bath, a few town lots, being confiscated, he declared he would get back all he lost. The foregoing occurence took place sometime during the fall of 1812. It would appear that Bill Johnson set to work in a systematic manner to carry out his threats.

Being well acquainted with the country and people, and, withal, a bold, determined and fearless man, he did not hesitate to visit the Canadian shore, and was even seen at Bath in day light. He built several small boats, light and trim, and he would at times unhesitatingly voyage upon the broad lake in bold undertakings. His operations consisted in privateering, in inducing American sympathizers to accompany him to the States, and in acting as a spy. During the war there were frequently boat loads of goods, consisting of liquors and other valuable articles passing up the bay, and across the Carrying Place, thence to York. On one occasion Thomas Parker, who was engaged in the business, left Kingston with a batteau laden with valuables for York. Johnson, who watched such events, saw Parker depart. While the latter made his way up the bay, Johnson proceeded in his craft around by the lake, and awaited Parker off Presqu'isle. In due time the batteau was seized by Johnson and his comrades, and taken to the other side. Parker being landed on Point Traverse, off Marysburgh.

Another exploit was the sizure of Government despatches near Brighton. A company of Dragoons, Captain Stinson, were on duty to carry despatches between the River Trent and Smith's Creek, Port Hope. On a certain occasion when a dragoon, by the name of Gardner, was pursuing his way with despatches, he was suddenly seized by Johnson, who deliberately took him with his horse to the lake shore, where he shot the horse, placed the despatch bag in his boat, and then permitted the man to find his way on foot through the woods to report himself to his captain.

"Bill Johnson still lives at French Creek upon the American shore of the St.Lawrence. He was an active participant in the events of 1837, and it is supposed had much

to do in recruiting for the army of sympathizers. There is so much of fiction to be found respecting him in connection with that time, that it is difficult to say what part he did take. It has been generally supposed that he was one of the few who escaped from the Windmill, but while, no doubt, he was engaged at the time, there is nothing to rest a decided statement upon. We suspect that "Bill," in his later days, was given to boasting a little, and took pleasure in catering to the taste of his Yankee friends, in relating what he and his daughter Kate did, (in imagination.)

Vol V Ont Hist. Society.

J Johnson

Presqu'isle

During war of 1812-14 "Grandfather Gibson" lived in a log house standing almost where Headly Simpson's dwelling now stands on Presqu'isle. His sons were away fighting. He was working building a schooner for one of his sons just on the shore in front of his dwelling (should Providence spare his boys to return from the war). He had the schooner pretty nearly completed, when report being made to the American Government by spies that were continually coasting along the Canadian frontier that this vessel was being built by the Government for war purposes, consequently Bill Johnson (that notorious "land pirate" as he was called) was sent by the American Government to burn the boat. He came from Sackett's Harbor in what was then called a revenue cutter, & with oars muffled, the crew came noiselessly up to the shore at night, threw some inflammable substance on the vessel, ignited it, & the boat was soon wrapped in flames from stem to stern, burning her to ashes while standing on the stocks. While the boat was burning the cutter was seen with six or eight oars on either side dipping to - gether into the water taking her departure.

In those days, the country being new & roads bad, the King's mail was carried on horseback. A few days after the burning of Grandfather Gibson's boat; this land pirate, with four or five comrades, waylaid the mail at a wild spot about half-way between what are now the villages of Brighton & Smithfield, when one sprang from ambush & tree seizing the horse by the bit, while another, with the muzzle of a musket to the mail-boy's head, demanded the mail, & when given up the boy & horse were let go. As at certain times a quantity of money was sent through in the mail to buy supplies for the army, this fact was some way made known to Bill Johnson, who thus knew that if he could seize the mail at the proper time he would secure a prize. The mail bags were found some weeks thereafter stowed away under a bridge, in a ravine just east of where Aaron Coulter's house now stands.

Genealogical Dept of the Bull family, of Prince Edw Co.

Amos Bull b 4 Dec 1768 married Martha dau of Daniel Cunningham & his second wife Abigail Richmond (see Richmond family by J.B.R. 1897)

Cunninghams family.

William, m. Fanny White had a son William

Mary m Geo Baker

Martha m Amos Bull

Sarah m. Benjamin Beavers.

(over)

DEPARTMENT OF

TRADE AND COMMERCE
CANADA

F.

OFFICE OF THE MINISTER

OTTAWA February 7th, 1924.

Queen's Journal,
Kingston, Ont.

Dear Sirs:

Early in the autumn, as I always do, I remitted my cheque for subscription to the Journal for this year. I received the Journal regularly until the first week after Christmas and since then have not received any copies. Would you please look into the matter and advise.

Yours very truly,

Private Secretary.

Marriages Solemnized by Wm Smart at Brockville:

Feb 18 1814 Samuel Randolph & Lydia Myers both of Elizabeth Town
banns wit. Alex McLean Henry McLean.

June 20 1830 John Richmond wit mark of Jno. Sanders & Christiana Cairns both of Yonge
Sept 29 1830 George Cole & Lydia Randolph both of Elizabeth Town banns
wit [illegible] Stafford Henry McLean

Dec 10 1833 Matthew Turney of Richmond & Elizabeth McBratney of Elizabeth Town banns
wit Coleman Lewis Stafford McBratney.

Feb 6 1834 William Randolph & Amelia Leyton both of Gartland banns
wit Henry Washburn Nathan Comstock

Mr W J Wraith
347 Beech Ave Toronto

Dear Sir —

A ~~recent~~ item published recently in the Watchman Columbian Why Standard has been the cause of my writing this letter to you

In this article the Watchman stated that you were in Kingston searching for data about "Bill" Johnston. This notorious character was by marriage my great-great-grandmother. Because of the relationship I have been greatly interested in him and I have been collecting information regarding him for some years with the hope that I would at some time find time to write an article about this most interesting man. My great-grandmother lived with him from 1810 until the year of her marriage 1819 and numerous stories have been handed down ~~from~~ regarding that period and his later escapades in 1837

As you will surmise I am equally interested in the family of his wife Ann Randolph.
Should you have any information ~~John-Lyd~~ John Lyon Randolph about her or should you publish ~~Lyons~~ an article regarding Johnston I should be pleased to hear from you so I may obtain a copy

There may ~~also~~ be also some ~~family~~ periods about which I may be able to assist.

There may be also some ~~supplying you~~ assist

Should you feel that I may be able to ~~assist~~ ~~with~~ in your search I shall be pleased to hear from you

Yours Truly
H.S. Burleigh

"Bill" Johnston Bibliography

1 Chapin - Tales of the St. Lawrence
B L
Battle of the Windmill
William Johnston
The Hunter Lodge Movement of 1838

No.

2 Hammond - Canadian Footprints
B.L.
~~Fort Henry~~ Kingston
Prescott as windmill
Wm Lyon Mackenzie at Queenston

No

3 Clipping - Mail + Empire - Re Ben Lett +
X
Johnston

4. Clipping - Whig Standard - re Kingston's fleet in 1812-14
X

5. Lajars - Humours of '37

6 Clipping - Standard — Re Johnston + Peel

7 Cannifft - Settlement of Upper Canada.

8. WS Herrington - Hist. of Lennox + Addington 1913

9 Clipping. - Chronicle + Gazette Kingston Wed Aug 28 1839
(copied for Watertown American)
X American arrest of Johnston

10. my article re Johnston

11. Clipping - Belleville Ontario Sept 1 1887
X
Re Long boat

12 Inglehart
X

12 Watertown Pub Library
X

13 Carter
X

14 Clayton Cemetery
x

15 Johnson – no picturesque St Lawrence.

16 Theller – banished = 1837-8

17 C H J. Snider In the Wake of the Eighteen Twelvers

18. Clipping Brockville Daily Rec & Loyalists

19 Clipping w town Times Green. w Johnston

20. Griffin – Open Secrets
no The Pirate of the Saint Lawrence

H. C. BURLEIGH, M. D., C. M.
NEWTON FALLS, N.Y.

James Johnston

See Notes

on

Cunniffe History

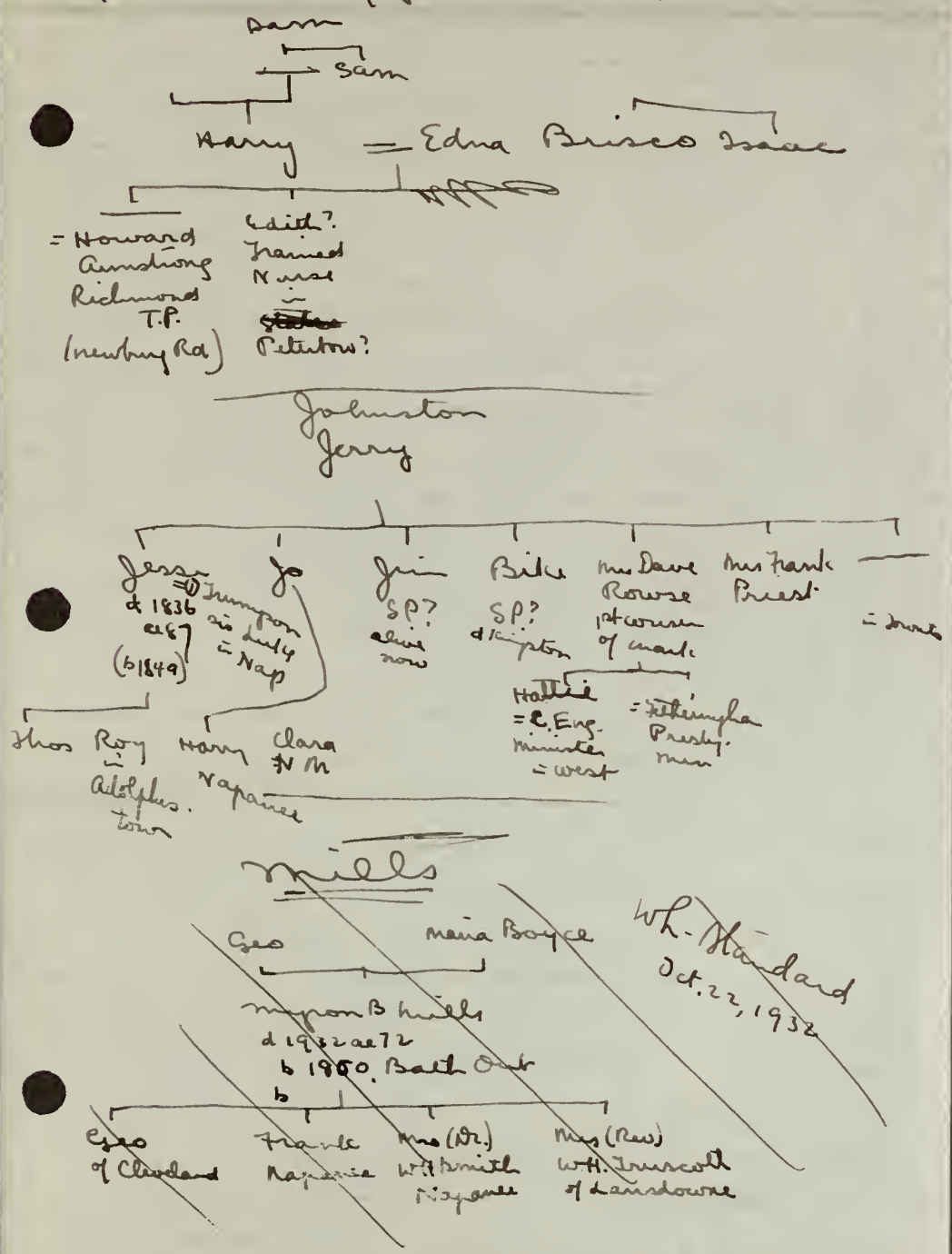
p. 13

DR. GORDON CALDER
321 DUFFERIN AVENUE
LONDON - CANADA

29

Dr. H. C. Burleigh,
BATH, Ontario.

Harry Johnston Napanee



Census of 1851

Brnesttown

Bath Enumerator

Johnson,	Silas	Farmer	Can. W.	Lutheran	51
	Lany		"	"	50
	James	Laborer	"	"	25
	Charlotte		"	"	17
	Conron	Farmer	"	"	58
	Elizabeth		"	"	52
	William H,	Laborer	"	"	18
	Marquis		"	"	13
	Elizabeth		"	"	20
	Jacob		"	"	85

Vermont

7 mi n. of New London

10 mi from Rome.

Nat. Canada Co

Vermont

Brattleboro - Ball Hatch

Rutland (Walker)

New Hampshire

V.C. for Percy

Payne

Costello

New York

Schuyler Papers Maps

Henry Clinton Papers.

DEPART

2B

TO:

1.
numbered letter

2.
with R.O. 3565

BILL JOHNSTON.

note

During 1812 he was actuated by a revenge at blood heat. His loss of home and friends developed in him a hatred for all things British. In 1837 he became perhaps embittered and like William the Conqueror in his later years his good judgment seemed to have failed him and failures warped his hitherto uncanny judgment and there followed his piracy at Wells Island and his brigandage at Isle Tanti.

In the lull after the war Bill established himself at Clayton and so 'tis said became proprietor of a tavern called "The French Creel". No doubt he kept his weather-eye on Canada watching the progress of affairs and perhaps where possible inciting Canadians to resist with Mackenzie the schemes of the "Family Compact".

During th

Langhorn

Hannah 2 W 6 Jul 1788
2 W 11 Dec 1788
2 M 16 Feb 1789 Sheldon Hawley wits David

David 2 W 16 Feb 1789 Hannah = Sheldon Hawley
2 W 11 Feb 1799

Daniel 2 W 23 Sept 1789 ∈ Isabel
2 M 2 Nov 1789 Zebriah Shorey
2 W 28 Feb 1792
2 W 28 Nov 1805

Isabel 2 W 23 Sept 1789 ∈ Daniel
2 W 2 Nov 1789 Daniel = Zebriah Shorey
2 W 10 Aug 1791
2 W 27 Feb 1792
2 W 28 -- 1792 ∈ Daniel
2 W 28 Aug 1792
2 M 8 Nov 1792 William Curtis 2

James 2 W 9 Feb 1804
2 W 6 Feb 1811 Aletheia = John Cook, Camden

John 2 M 11 Nov 1806 Rachael Catin 2

Mary 2 M 28 Nov. 1805 Wm Juel 2 wits Wm + Daniel

Wm 2 W 28 Nov 1805 ∈ Daniel - Mary = Wm Juel

Aletheia 2 M 6 Feb 1811 John Cook Camden wits James.

Mrs
John Camm. M 14 Oct 1810 Rachael Cook Camm.

Loy. Cem

James Cuttling Patent, Chas. Co. Nat. of Ireland. Came young to A.
Joined '77. Resided at Marlboro

Crown Patents

	conc	lot	
Danl Johnson	7.	24	1828
Jacob "	3.	4	1803
Andrew T. Johnston	2.	5	1843
Wm et al	6.	12	1806 (Sold. Loy. R. from Yorkshire?)

W & Lost-

James 2 sold Jessups.
Andrew 2 son Sculf James
Daniel 2 " " "

Cem

Bath U.

James 1812-65
Amanda Dillon his wife 1829-99
Noble d Jan 15/72 ae 84 (from Ireland?)
Alice, his wife, d Sept 27, 1881, ae 94
Adam d May 1 1908 ae 74
Samuel d Sept 22/72 ae 53
Mary McConnell, his wife, d Aug 26/87 ae 67

Bath A.

Wm 1822-87
Mary 1833-1909
John W 1868-1908
Frederick 1871-99
Wm C 1855-56
Minerva 1860-2
Susan 1863-6[illegible]
Harriet A 1845-1916 wife of David Rouse. (dau. of Jerry)
Anne Catherine d Sept 10 1812 ae 2.7.8 dau of Wm + Ann Johnston
Swirly
James d Sept 30, 1866 ae 75 (b 1791) (bro of T.C.) (James is Jerry + his wife Amanda Dillon)
mover
E. Eliza 1825-1907 wife of John S. Bell (1816-1900)
Henry Geo. d Apr 19, 1870 ae 2.11.18
Gretta May d Feb 27, 1870 ae 0.6.7 [illegible] of Samuel O + Cornelia M. Johnson

Catharine 2 M 25 Jul 1815 Lewis Hallock 2

Nathan 2 M 10 Jan 1816 Ann George

Ruth 2 M 26 May 1816 Isaac McLaughlin 2

Margret 3 M 22 Mar 1818 Nicholas Smith 3

Catharine 2 M 12 Oct 1818 Joseph Chatterson 3

David Carn M 17 Apr 1811 Elijth Rush Carn

John 1 M 5 Feb 1821 Tunis Gonsolus 1

Henry Hall M 17 Jul 1821 Mary Merritt 2

Sarah Hall W 30 Oct 1833

Jane[2] = Duncan Hough[2] → Duncan Nodale (1820-32

Betsy Soph = Peter Holmes Soph — Peter 13 Nov 1807

Robert Hall = Martha Armstrong → James 23 Sept 1820

Elizth J. d May 6, 1810, ae 78-1- wife of Richd J. Wright.

Marcus Johnson b Jan 18, 1840; d Feb 7, 1905.

Conrade d Sept 20 1867 ae 72-10-0 (b 1794)

Elizth. Smith, his wife d Aug 24, 1859. ae 59-10-24

Emeline d Sept 3 1848, ae 19-6-0

Wm H. d. Sept 1, 1858 ae 23-11-0

Ellen Johnston 1843-1936 = Douglas A Bartels 1839-1920

Mary J Johnston 1827-1900 wife of Philip Harm 1822-1895

Ebenezer

Jacob Johnson d Jan 17, 1857, ae 89-3-(b 1767)

Elizth his wife d Mar 18, 1843, ae 74

Nap. E.

John J. 1839-1924

Ann S. Miller, his wife, 1845-1930

Ind Bks

Andrew 1797 mapping for family lds.

Henry 1797 " " " "

Isabel Curtis, ale Johnston 1797 for lds as U.S.

The registry office of Kingston and Frontenac County is a small unassuming limestone building. Its walls are ivy clad and its windows are barred and to the laity it might seem a strange mixture of church prison and mausoleum. Close by is the court house with its ~~which~~ portico in whose shadow it stands a satellite of justice. The barred front windows look out across the Cricket field where cricket is no more and Macdonald park to the table rocky shore of the Lake Ontario where Frontenac 252 years ago landed for his powwows with the Indians and perhaps unwittingly founded the city where stands a Martello tower one of the city's ancient defenses and landmarks

Within these forbidding w
The interior of the building belies its stern forbidding exterior. Here the registrar willingly explains his duties and

"Bill" Johnston — Spy Pirate Filibuster Et Cetera.

Johnston was one of seven sons of James Johnston United Empire loyalist a member of the famous Butler Rangers of Revolutionary fame. He was born in ~~Three~~ Rivers Quebec Feb 1st 1782 and witnessed the coming of the United Empire Loyalists & the establishment of the first English settlement in Ontario. His childhood & youth were passed in the quaint old village of Bath where his father was one of the first settlers. Here he married & before long we find him keeping a store in Kingston. At the outbreak of the war of 1812 "Bill" was a sergeant in the Kingston Militia and when the first draft for men was made his name was among those called (conscriptees). He served for a very short time but conscientiously objecting to the military service when business was so good, he business was flourishing & his inability to benefit by it caused him to persuade one of his brother to act as his substitute. Shortly after however his brother deserted to the American shore & Bill was called on to take his place in the ranks forsaken by his deputy. But conscientiously objecting to letting others make hay while the sun shone while he himself went without fodder Bill refused point blank. One day a file of soldiers appeared at his door

& Bill divining the reason of their presence attempted to make escape by the rear. ~~He was caught however~~ stripped of his chevrons & thrown into gaol. But one of his adventurous mould did not remain inactive very long for shortly after he escaped, no doubt through the aid of sympathizers & getting together a few adventurous spirits at Kath & Amherst Islands he made his escape to Sackett's Harbor.

All this excitement resulted in the confiscation of his property both at Kingston & Bath & Bill feeling no doubt that he had been unjustly treated, swore that he would be revenged & that he would be a thorn in the side of Great Britain until such time as he deemed the debt (humiliation) paid.

Then followed a career that has stamped him hero & patriot or as others see it spy enemy traitor pirate buccaneer, filibuster — and possibly bootlegger.

Bill Fronts allied himself with the American Cause and acted in the capacity of spy and general and independent intelligence officer and procurer for Gen. Winfield Scott of sympathizers. Occupied with these several offices he was allowed much freedom and much range of movement which tended to make him venturesome

He had a In his many voyages he used what was then known as a "long boat which was sharp like and propelled by from six to twenty pairs of oars This type of boat was easily handled and capable great speed when circumstances called for such. Bill and his crew with their speedy craft soon became the talk of the Lake and rever front. His activities carried him from the head of Lake Ontario to Ogdensburg and he had a faculty of turning up unexpectedly and very often at opportune moments (from his point of view. Sacketts Harbor was his headquarters in the early stages of the war but his success led to a wider range of movement and he soon established bases at French Creek (now Clayton) and at Ogdensburg.

Much of his time was spent in forays and such was his audacity that he was seen in daylight several times appeared in the streets of Bath which was then one of the leading towns in Ontario. These appearances very often marked the disappearance of men of a military age who were american sympathizers

Travelling facilities from Kingston to York (now Toronto) were very poor and very little travelling by land was done except by the troops and messengers The Kingston to York road was not known then. Military supplies etc were trans-

portid by water and it was a slow process as batteaux were used. The trip was made from Kingston to York via the Bay of Quinte and the Carrying place where the batteaux were dragged across the narrow peninsula near Brighton from the Bay of Quinte to Brighton Bay. & from thence the voyage was completed by following the south shore of the lake to York. Among Bills many escapades were his ability in judging the length of time it took a batteaux to travel from Kingston to Presqu'isle. He had but to lie in wait off Simcoe Island at the Entrance to Kingston harbor and watch until a heavily laden batteaux was seen making its way toward the Quinte. This of course was the signal for action and Bill and his crew in their long Boat would have rendezvous'd at the aforesaid Batteaux off Presquisle, the long boat would soon be proceeding around the south shore of Prince Edward County to Presquisle and before long the batteau richly laden with provisions, such wines intended for the Officers messes etc would quickly change hands — and in a day or two there would be much rejoicing in Sackets Harbor over the unexpected arrival of an ~~unexpected~~ of Johnston's a batteaux in tow after having landed dropped the owner of on Point Traverse at the southern end of Prince Edward.

At another time he appeared unexpectedly at Queenston, drank the guard under the table and calling to his men was able to escape with seventy stand of arms.

Bill was the bane of stage coaches and despatch riders. The stage from Montreal to Kingston was lumbering along the rough road near Gananoque when Johnston appeared in the offing, called a halt to its movers helped himself to the mails, such clothes as he thought the occupants could well spare and tied the coachman to a tree and departed in a devil-may-take-you manner. As to despatch riders —— In order to gain time in carrying important despatches to & from Montreal to Kingston York Niagara & Detroit, the road was divided into sections and each officer was detailed with a party of men to protect the road and to pass despatches along. The captain of the Section extending from Brighton (Trent River) to Smiths creek (Port Hope) received important despatches and entrusted them to a dragoon to bear to the latter place. Somehow Bill got wind of this and cut short its journey by holding up the dragoon shortly after he had left Brighton leading him aboard to the lake shore, throwing the despatches into his craft, shooting the horse & telling the man to report to his captain that the despatches had been safely delivered

Perhaps his most daring exploit during the war of 1812 was the result of his boat getting caught out in a gale on the lake. While on one of his many "voyages of discovery" he ran into a gale which drove the boat across the lake and on Canadian shore. His boat's crew were captured but he escaped commandeered a birch bark canoe and after a short flight spent in dodging of British vessels he succeeded in crossing lake Ontario at that point thirty-six miles wide.

During the three campaigns the chief efforts of the combatants were directed towards attempting to obtain control of the lakes. Americans & Canadians vied with one another in building warvessels. In 1812 the Americans were in control. In 1813 the condition was a deadlock and the winter of 1813 ~~was~~ entered in a period of feverish preparations for the coming sailing (summer) season. The Americans were working on the keel of a schooner which it was hoped would dominate the lake. The Canadians too were making their plans and having heard through spies of the size of the American boat, proceeded to build one which would far over awe even this latest American production. Spring came and news of the latest Canadian boat, which was christened the St. Laurence, reached the American Admiral Chauncey (?) at Sackett's Harbor. Its immense size roused the American authorities into action and one evening a gig with Johnston as pilot pulled from Sackett's Harbor and turned its nose down the lake towards Kingston. Morning found it in Canadian waters but safely hidden among the islands just below Kingston. Dusk came and the crew awakened to activity and the boat was headed for Navy Bay (make reference above). Early in the morning it entered Navy Bay to find this new paragon of warships and by means of a bomb cause its destruction. A careful search of the bay showed nothing & as sunrise was coming on, they were forced to give up their search. By sunrise the gig was in hiding in a creek on Wolfe Island and from there they could see the mists rose from the waters of the bay & harbor, the St. Laurence with the rest of the Canadian fleet, their sails set & pennons flying making their way out through the Lower Gap & up the lake. —— They had been too late the St. Laurence had been launched twenty hours previously.

Thos Johnston was when the war ended heralded on the American side as a daredevil & freebooter & nicknamed Pirate rolling — not so along the Canadian shores — numbers had visions of his long boat scudding away after some act of daring & disconfiture to them —— outlaw rebel spy traitor was he named. But little Bell cared

[redacted] Then he disappears very much from notice as a

In the hull after the war Bill established himself at Clayton and so his said became proprietor of a tavern called the French Creek. No doubt he kept his weather eye on Canada watching the progress of affairs and perhaps where possible inciting wherever possible Canadians to resist with Mackenzie the schemes of the Family Compact.

During the war of 1812 he was actuated by a revenge at blood heat the loss of home + friends developed in him a hatred for all things British In 1837 he became perhaps embittered and like his namesake Wm the Conqueror in his later years his judgment seemed to have failed him + repulses warped his hitherto unerring judgement —— + then followed his piracy at Wells Island + his brigandage at Isle Tauti.

from Queen's?

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Clayton Cemetery

John Johnston, Sept 11, 1816 – Dec 22, 1896
Emily J. Johnston, Sept 15, 1811 – Oct 19, 1964
Ann, wife of Wm Hawes, d. Mar 8, 1855 age 64 ye 4 mos
James J. – 1807 – 1892
William Jr. – 1822 – 1846
William – 1782 – 1878
Ann Johnston (Randolph) 1784 – 1858
John Johnston
Emily "
Napoleon B. " (1814 – 1886)
Catherine J. Hawes (1854 – 1879)
Catherine " (1818 – 1878)
Charles F. " (1819 – 1872)

=
Lemon G. Johnston (1821)
Emmeline (his wife) (1828)
Lucy A – 1858 – 1892
Minnie E – 1858 – 1864
Jessie J – 1864 – 1864

Bill Johnston

The Sir Robert Peel, a Canadian steamer burnt & sunk off Wellesley Island, after being attacked by Bill Johnston, self-styled "Admiral of the Thousand Islands," & a group of associates during rebellion of 1837.

Johnston, native of Three Rivers, Que., harbored a grievance against Can. govt. of that day.

Alexandria Bay C of C. compiling story of Johnston's life & deeds in Thousand Islands section.

[Settlement of Upper Canada, 1(109)(4473)]

William Johnson.

Sunken Rock Light House is just below 1000 Island Park and Fisher's Landing. Johnsons once lived here and later removed to Clayton.

Devil's Rock or Cave — a huge rock forming an island with a long low cave at low water. Kate J. took food and putting it on a board would shove it into the cave to await Bill's coming.
Also called The Devil's Oven.
Is about ½ mile above Alexandria Bay.

Watertown Public Library

Notes

1. Johnstons removed to Jefferson Co. in 1812.
2. Stephen Decatur J., born 1820 at Sackett's Harbor, went to Clayton with parents from Cape Vincent and lived on Grindstone Island for a short time.
3. John J. b. 1816 at Watertown, received earliest education at Sackett's Harbor. Came to Clayton for residence in 1834
4. Wm J. Jr. born Three Rivers Feb 1 1782.
5. "When cast on shore let his followers return"

Bills boat 12 oared painted dark blue & rowers garbed similarly
He had a gun specially made & mounted on the boat. It was capable of killing at a mile.
His house 2 storied with two owls-eye windows in attic.
The cave had chimney formed by a stump



Americans with the result that a bounty of £5 00 was offered for his capture dead or alive.

Then began a busy season. Hunted like a hare Bill & his followers ~~were [illegible] Both the~~ American & British forces combined in sending out parties to capture Bill & break up his gang. On one such hunting party ~~the~~ a boat ~~[illegible] on the Kent~~ was met by a boat bearing a flag of truce. During the parley Bill sitting on the small after deck of this "flagship" produced the flag of the Sir Robt Peel from a carpet bag that served as a cushion waved it aloft replaced it & said it would stay there till it rotted. saying as he gave his crew the signal to proceed

One canadian officer acting on information received proceeded to an island in the mazes of the St. Lawrence & there found the Admiral in a canoe, & without any hesitation covered him & ordered him to proceed with him to Kingston. Bill who sat smoking his pipe demurred & as the in the dim light of the canoe talked held his lighted pipe over a keg containing what looked to be powder, saying that he was not ~~[illegible]~~ to hang. The officer beat a hasty retreat leaving Bill smiling contemplating a keg of dutch rats.

The animosity of McKenzie + ——— led to bickerings which accompanied by Bills relegation to a minor position perhaps inked such an independent character

When the troubles that lead to the rebellion of 37/38 began Bill from his work out began to prick up his ears & like an old warhorse at the sound of the fray became uneasy & eager for Battle. Immediately after the Battle of the ~~Windmill~~ Montgomery's Farm Bill took to the War Path and soon became the leader ~~in~~ of the Patriots in Northern New York.

The Rebels acting & American Sympathizers formed Hunters Lodges whose aim was the freedom of Canada and Bill became Admiral of the Naval Forces.

Forces began to gather quietly along the Upper St Lawrence and plans were made to attack Kingston. The men were to march from Clayton & other pts to Hickory Island on the Canadian side and having concentrated here began their invasion. On the advice of Johnston the arms had been taken from the arsenal at Watertown had been left in Clayton until a sufficient force had been collected at the Hickory Id. But whilst this was going on the State authorities seized the rifles & ammunition. This along with ~~accompanied~~ a waning enthusiasm on the part of the men led to the invasion being temporarily abandoned.

But determined old warhorse like Johnston did not ~~grow~~ falter. He gathered about him the more daring spirits among of the patriots and with the coming of Spring established himself among the islands having as his Hdq. Fort Wallace.

May came and Bell conceived a plan whereby a bold stroke blow could be struck which would rouse the spirits of the faltereers and put a feather in his cap. This was fulfilled on the morning of March 1838 when he seized and burned the "Sir Robt Peel" at Wells Island after having driven the passengers & crew ashore on a stormy night & looted the steamer.

This stroke put him between the devil & the deep blue sea for it roused the ire of the Brit. authorities & was deemed piracy by the

Whigton 27-1-82 Died Dan Richmond on 17 Feb Nancy J. Martin aged 49 yrs

Our Fathers — Where Are They

Tue 28-1-82

Writing to the Kingston Gazette in 1811 the Grand Old Leader (Capt Grass) pictures the view that met his gaze when he first looked upon the shores of the beautiful Bay of Quinte. We will quote his words as showing that we have not much to boast of when comparing our style of composition with that practised by our forefathers:— Seven & twenty years, Mr. Printer, have rolled away since my eyes, for the second time, beheld the shores of Bat-araqui. In that space of time, how many changes have taken place in the little circle in which I had destined one to move! How many of the seats of my old associates are now vacant! How few of them, alas! to mourn w me the loss of the companions of our sufferings, or to rejoice w me at the prosperous condition of this our land of refuge! Yet will I not repine. They are gone, I trust to a better land, where he who causeth the wilderness to smile as the rose, hath assigned to them a distinguished place, as a reward for their humble imitation of his labors. Yes, seven & twenty years ago scarcely the vestige of a human habitation could be found in the whole extent of the Bay of Quinte. Not a settler had dared to penetrate the vast forests that skirted the shores. Even on this spot, now covered w stately edifices, were to be seen only the bark-thatched wigwam of the savage or the newly-erected tent of the hardy loyalist. Then when the ear heard me it blessed me for being strong in my attachments to my sovereign & high in the confidence of my fellow subjects. I led the loyal band, I pointed out to them the site of their future metropolis, & gained for persecuted principles a sanctuary — for myself & followers a home." Later in the year 1784 Fredericksburg & Adolphustown were settled, but the first landing was made at or near Kingston. The only point to decide is, whether settlement began when Capt. Grass & his associates surveyed & selected their farms in 1783, or when they brought their families there in 1784. We are disposed

& the relator can remember his mother crying silently as she parted ē her children — — — In Mr. T's return to K. in 1828 the pop. of the place was probably 6000 & the town lay east of Princess & ē close proximity to the Artillery Park. The land towards the Grand Trunk RR & in the vicinity of the Cotton Mill was covered ē a second growth of pine as was also the head of Princess st. The wood was so dense that it could not be seen through Where Waldron's dry goods store now stands there was a hotel kept by G. Millwood. That part of the city West of Union St was divided into farms. Mr. Murney owned the water front on which its tower stands, bearing his name. Archdeacon Stuart had what was known as lot 24 on which Queens College was erected. Some of the Murney property was secured in 1841 by Govt Expropriation for Govt purposes, that is the grounds around the Court House & including the Park & Cricket field. — — — There was no bridge across Cataraqui Bay, the Military being ferried over on a scow towed across the channel by a hawser — — — The hospital (later) on the property now owned by the Govt & used as a penitentiary farm. It was while thus employed that the rebellion of 1837 broke out, & in which Mr. T. took an active part, being the recognized leader of the Kingston Radicals. During the political difficulties Mr. T. was a prominent character, & was imprisoned several times. He was one of the compatriots of Parker who escaped from Ft. Henry & remained in exile for years.

Whig 7-1-1882

Ernestown has lost one of its oldest residents in the death of Mrs. Jas. Randolph, who d. at her sons home, Glenvale aged 80 yrs. She was buried at Wilton

Whig 21-1-1882

Coun. E. W. Bunbury of South Marysburg has been served ē a writ for the purpose of disqualifying him

Son of

Whig - Wed 1-1-82 Council of N. Marysburg Councillors E. W. Burley.

" Mon 9-1-82 Our Fathers — Where are They?

Reminiscences of the Early Settlement of the old Bay of Quinte District — a Doubly Surprise.

(Belleville Ontario)

Among the devices which necessity, "the mother of Invention", recommended to the favorable consideration of the patriots of 1812, our readers have doubtless frequently heard mention of a species of open vessels, familiarly known at that time by the name of "long boats". These boats were strongly built, quite high above the water, & provided with a no. of "sweeps" or oars, by means of which they were rapidly propelled through the water when 20 or 30 stalwart men laid hold of the handles. The crews were also furnished with a good supply of rifles (of the old pattern) cutlasses & boarding implements. Their duty was to surprise the enemy, when possible by stealthily creeping upon them; to watch exposed parts of the coast, & carry information from one point to another. The incident now related happened during the disturbance referred to, & the circumstances were related by the late Wm Hudgins, of P. E. County, who took part in the affair, & who delighted to tell how they surprised the Yankees. Mr. Hudgins formed one of the crew selected to do service in a boat of the above description in the vicinity of the Upper Gap. His companions, like himself, were strong, active young fellows, fond of adventure, & all from the Bay of Quinte District. It is needless to say, too, that they were unquestionably loyal, & eager for a chance to demonstrate their devotion to the cause espoused.

Such a chance was found, after considerable waiting

but unfortunately the result did not bring them so much glory as they anticipated & desired. One dark night the authorities at Bath (then a place of some importance) learned that an Am. armed vessel was hovering off Amherst Id, waiting for a favorable opportunity to surprise the place & capture the shipping lying there at anchor. It was resolved, ∴, to send the "long boat" to reconnoitre. The crew was soon ready for action & under way. They passed out of the bay via the Upper Gap, & rowed slowly & quietly down the south shore of the island. The greater part of the night had been spent in a fruitless search, & the rowers were tired & hungry. They landed to partake of some refreshments & rest, it being then about 2 o'clock in the morning, & (to use the words of our informant) "as dark as a stack of black cats". They had not been long on the shore before a small light was discovered off on the water. From its peculiar motion the men concluded that it was not far away, & partially concealed. No one was tired then; the victuals were hastily gathered up & the boat launched "for glory or the grave", the former being confidently expected. It was necessary that their search should be cautious & expeditious, as the morning would soon dawn & place them at a great disadvantage. Just about this time the wind freshened considerably, which roughed the surface of the water & militated in the motion of their clumsy craft. After pulling a zig-zag course for some time, they discovered a large vessel to windward under canvass, & apparently bearing directly from them. The first glimmer of light began to show in the east, & the sable curtain of night slowly lifted itself from the water. It soon became evident to the men in the long boat that the schooner had discovered them & was desirous of a closer acquaintance. They knew the result would be anything but glorious for them if the enemy got near enough to salute them a few shots from her bow guns; & finding that discretion was the better part of valor under the circumstances they turned the prow of their boat towards the Lower Gap, some four miles distant, & began to pull for dear life. The breeze freshened & the vessel increased her speed at a rate decidedly unpleasant to the surprised oarsmen, who spared no muscle in the contest, but sent

their heavy boat forward at a pace that showed the power of their manned strokes. Thus the race continued, each moment telling fearfully upon the exhausted rowers, bringing the Yankees uncomfortably nearer. There was only one hope for effecting their escape. At the foot of Amherst Id a small masked battery was planted, & if they could hold out until reaching it the crisis would be over. But the enemy had got range, & "bang!" went one of her bow guns, sending a shot splashing & foaming through the H&W but a short distance from the long boat. This was an incentive for redoubled efforts, & the last desperate plunge followed. Twice again the dangerous missiles went whizzing past, the last one striking the bluff of the stern one breaking it & half filling the boat of H&W. But the frightened men were safe. Rowing rapidly under the shore, the vessel following, the little battery saluted unexpectedly w 3 guns, the first round smashing through the vessel's side rail & splintering the main boats. It was now the Yankees turn to be surprised. The battery continued to tickle the enemy, but the wind being fresh & fair, they hauled off w admirable dexterity & ran down the bay away from the shot, & so escaped further damage. The men in the long boat, who came so near being captured, were much pleased w the turn of affairs & accompanied every shot from the battery w rousing cheers. They acknowledged that the Yankees had considerably surprised them by giving chase, but thought they had surprised the Yankees by leading them under the masked battery at the foot of Amherst Id.

Whig. Tue. 12-1-82 The people of Inverness-a have their suspicion aroused that the skeleton found in the swamp in that town about a month ago was the effect of some comparatively recent tragedy. The clothing was in a good state of preservation, the cap being almost as good as new. Some parties desire an investigation

A Much Regretted Death

Whig Wed 11-1-82 On Monday morning Mr. Daniel L Pairey who had been a leading member of the "Legion of Honour" Co now in the city, died in Boston

" Tue 13-1-82 His Last Words - the last words of Pairey of the "Legion of Honour" Co, were:- "Tell my dear mother I was not afraid to die, & that my last thoughts were of her & my darling little child." The funeral was private. Theatrical friends sent many floral tributes.

" Thur Jan 19-1-82 Reminiscences of Mr Thibodo (Augustus).

Mr Thibodo is a Kingstonian by birth, his father, Oliver T., having settled here about the beginning of the century. He came from Quebec & was one of the earliest shipbuilders. He located at Brown's Bay, Wolfe Island, where he erected a large saw mill & cut a canal connecting that place & Big Bay. Here various shops were erected & a large vessel, called the "Two Sisters," as well as numerous Durham boats, built. Shortly after the "Two Sisters" was built Mr. Thibodos father died, which event was soon afterwards followed by the death of his mother. The estate was turned over to the executors & Mr. Thibodo, aged 14 yrs, proceeded to Quebec, where he remained 4 yrs.

Mr Thibodo's earliest recollection of Kingston date from 1814. He distinctly remembers the attack made by the Americans upon it, & of hearing the cannon booming. His father was on duty & helped to repulse the foe. In company with two others, Mr. T., was taken out into the country in a high French cart

Wm Johnston a son of James Johnston [illegible] was born in [illegible] England in Royal Fort, was one of a family of 13, 7 sons, 6 daughters. Came to Canada to a degree

[illegible] When the [illegible] was on the Bl[illegible] Bill Johnston [illegible] of England Tyneside.

Time was when Bill Johnstons name was used by mothers to scare naughty children into obedience. Another Black Douglas was Bill and his name

Time was when Bill Johnston's name was to the children of Upper Canada what the Black Douglas was to the children of the northern Marches of England. Along the Canadian shore of the Upper St Lawrence and Lake Ontario mothers chided their youngsters and stilled their cries with Hush before "Bill" Johnston hears you"

But time flies and memory is dulled forgets and Today Johnston is but a myth of those turbulent days of '37 and our Canadian Histories give but a sentence / when patriot fought Family compact for "equal rights to all and special privileges to none."

Who is this personage? Had you asked that of your grandparents they could have told you better than I perhaps and with a glamour born of childhood days.

Johnston was the son of James Johnston U. E. L. and a member of the famous Butler Rangers of Revolutionary fame. He was one of seven sons and being born before the close of the Am. Revolution he witnessed the coming and establishment (of the U.E.L.) first settlement in Ontario. His childhood & youth were passed in old town of Bath. Here he married and for a long we find him keeping a store in Kingston. The war of 1812 came and business was good. When the first draft for men was

Ohm's Law

III When the length is 10 cm the resistance is ·3 volts

∴ " " " " " 1 " " " " $\frac{\cdot 3}{10} = \cdot 03$ volts.

Diameter of wire is ·4 mm.

Specific resistance is resistance offered by a cube of substance having sides of 1 cm length.

$$\text{Sp. Res.} = \frac{\text{resistance} \times \text{area cross section in cm.}}{\text{length in cm}}$$

$$= \frac{\cdot 3 \times (\cdot 02)^2 \times \Pi}{10} = \frac{\cdot 000376992}{10} = \cdot 0000376992.$$

IV Exp. II was repeated using, instead of 1 amp, 1·4 amperes. The results are given below in tabular form.

Constant of 1·4 amperes.

Length of wire	V.	I
10 cm	·4 volts	
20 "	·8 "	
30 "	1·1 "	
40 "	1·5 "	
50 "	1·8 "	
60	2·2 "	
70	2·5 "	
80	2·9 "	
90	3·2 "	
100	3·55 "	

The difference in volts is greater when we use a bigger current because there is a greater difference potential. Then the greater the current the greater difference of potential is developed.

made Johnstons name was among those conscripted. ~~But business was good~~ ~~so Bill~~ He served for a very short time but business was flourishing and his inability to benefit by it caused him to persuade one of his brothers to act as a substitute. Shortly after this his brothers deserted to the American shore and ~~Bill~~ was called on to take his place in the ranks. But business was good and Bill refused point blank. and conscientiously objecting to do military service when business was so good

One day a fill of soldiers appeared at his door and Bill divining the reason of their presence attempted to escape by the rear. He was caught however and thrown into gaol. He soon after escaped no doubt through the aid of sympathizers and gathering together a few ~~conveyed~~ adventurous spirits at Bath and Amherst Island he escaped to Sacketts Harbor.

All this resulted in confiscation of his property and Bill feeling undoubtedly that he was unjustly treated swore that he would be revenged and that he would be a thorn in the side of Great Britain until such time as he deemed the debt paid.

Then followed a career that has stamped him as ~~a~~ enemy spy traitor pirate buccaneer filibuster patriot and what not.

Ohm's Law.

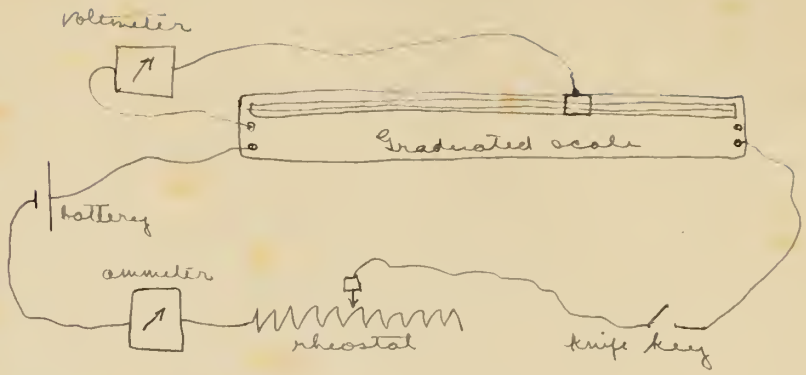
in potential over the strength of current is a constant

II This experiment is similar to the previous except that we kept the strength of current constant at 1 ampere and varied the length of wire between two points. This caused the readings in the voltmetre to vary. Several readings were taken varying the length of wire by 10 cm each time. Below are the results in tabular form.

Length of wire	V	I
10 cm	.3 volts	constant
20 "	.6 "	
30 "	.8 "	
40 "	1. "	at
50 "	1.3 "	1 amp
60 "	1.6 "	
70 "	1.8 "	
80 "	2.1 "	
90 "	2.4 "	
100 "	2.6 "	

Having plotted the accompanying graph we must conclude that the value V (voltage) must vary directly as the length of wire. So the greater the distance between two points the greater the difference in potential

Ohm's Law.



We connected a circuit including battery ammeter rheostat knife key and graduated scale. A second circuit was made up of a voltmeter and the graduated scale. The latter was so arranged that the current only passed through part of the G.S. wire of the graduated scale

We then closed the switch and adjusted the rheostat until the current was .2 amps. Then a reading was taken on the voltmeter. This experiment was repeated using ~~lengths~~ total length of G.S. wire in the graduated scale and adjusting the current as .2, .4, .6, .8, 1., 1.2 and 1.4 amperes. The readings are given below in tabular form.

V. (diff in pot. in wire of 100 cm length)	I strength of current in amperes	V/I (ratio of V over I)
.5 volts	.2 amperes	$\frac{.5}{.2} = 2.5$
1. "	.4 "	$\frac{1.}{.4} = 2.5$
1.5 "	.6 "	$\frac{1.5}{.6} = 2.5$
2.1 "	.8 "	$\frac{2.1}{.8} = 2.6$
2.6 "	1. "	$\frac{2.6}{1} = 2.5$
3.1 "	1.2 "	$\frac{3.1}{1.2} = 2.5$
3.6 "	1.4 "	$\frac{3.5}{1.4} = 2.5$

This leads us to believe that keeping the distance constant the differences

BILL JOHNSTON--SPY, PIRATE, FILIBUSTER, ET CETERA.

1. INTRODUCTION.

11. YOUTH AND PARENTAGE.

111. EVENTS LEADING TO DESERTION.

1V. WAR OF 1812-14.

V. INTER-WAR PERIOD.

V1. REBELLION OF 1837-8.

V11. POST-WAR PERIOD AND DEATH.

V111. SUMMARY.

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MSS. In Canadian Archives, relating to military efforts to get Johnston out of the Islands in 1839, and to conspiricies in which he figured.

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Mackenzie's Gazette	"
Toronto Mirror	"
Toronto Patriot.	"

All these contain many items culled from United States papers of that ~~xxxx~~ time.

*This book does not mention Johnston, but mentions an exploit in which he figured.

If you will send me, in all possible detail, everything you have -- apart, of course, from the book references mentioned in my bibliography -- relating to Johnston's 1812-19 period, your great-grandmother's residence in his household, anecdotes, reminiscences, personal color, his marriage, his wife and family, with such emphasis as you can give to dates and locations, I will give you full personal credit and send you a duplicate MSS. copy of each chapter as it is written.

Moreover, I promise you an autographed copy of the book, if and when published, and I give you my permission to use any information or prints contained in it.

Later, as the work progresses, we probably will be able to co-operate on the 1837-39 period.

If I can only succeed in conveying to the reader something of the romance and drama, something of the Napoleonic characteristics, of Bill Johnston, as I see them, I believe the book will make a rather strong appeal in certain quarters.

Again thanking you and tendering my best wishes, I am,

Faithfully yours,

W. J. Wraith

347 Beech Ave., Toronto, July 24, 1931.

H. C. Burleigh, M.D., C.M.,
Newton Falls, N.Y.

Dear Dr. Burleigh:-

Your letter of the 21st inst. leaves me overwhelmed with gratitude. Such splendid zeal, enthusiasm and co-operation on your part deserves something more than the mere thanks which, at present, is all that I can offer in return. I take refuge in the thought that our mutual objective is worth while.

For one thing permit me to apologize here and now. In the preparation of my bibliography I was too brief and perfunctory, and consequently I put you to un-necessary trouble. I overlooked including Theller's book, which I perused in the Archives at Ottawa; but inasmuch as I made only one extract from it, and afterwards re-retted that I did not make more, your excerpts are extremely welcome. Neither did I mention Hammond's Canadian Footprints, Griffin's Open Secrets, or Snider's In the Wake of the Eighteen-Twelvers, for these reasons: Mr. Hammond's book did not add anything of consequence to my information on Johnston; Mr. Griffin's article, although interesting, merely brought together information which, with the exception of two items,I have obtained from his original sources; and Mr. Snider's book admittedly contains a certain element of the fictitious which left me doubtful whether Johnston actually participated in the episode mentioned.

The latter point is easily cleared up: Mr. Snider is an editor on the Telegram with which I have been employed for twelve years. He has just returned to Toronto after an extended absence, and I can see him personally.

In connection with Mr. Griffins's article, one exception was Johnston's second proclamation published after the Peel pirates had fled to the United States. I cannot find authority for this, and Mr. Griffin -- with whom I have frequently conversed over the telephone -- cannot remember exactly where he found it. The other exception -- Johnston's escape from the Deputy Sheriff at Watertown -- comes in your notes like manna dropped from the blue skies.

You are quite correct in your supposition that this arrest was made before Johnston was forgiven by the United States Government. Throughout the summer of 1839 he was still among the Thousand Islands, and there is in the Archives at Ottawa a MS. letter, dated July 1, that year, which refers to a final grand international effort to rout him out. He was finally pardoned by President Harrison shortly after the latter assumed office.

Your references to Lett are extremely interesting. Historically, I cannot find that this man figured extensively in Johnston's career; but he is mentioned as the prime mover in a gigantic murder, arson and robbery conspiricy which was unearthed at Cobourg in August, 1839. That plot was frustrated by a man named Moon, a Canadian "patriot" and member of a Hunter's Lodge, who drew the line at taking innocent lives. Lett and five companions escaped; four others were arrested and sentenced to long terms in penitentiary. And this, Moon declared, was only one phase of a still greater conspiricy in which the whole country was to rise, and Bill Johnston was to be commander of a flotilla of boats which would destroy all British shipping on the Lakes.

Meanwhile, here is a little souvenir -- a somewhat indifferent print from a fairly good negative of Mr. W. R. Marshall and his daughter, Marie, of 141 Mary street, Clayton, holding up a silk apron which Bill Johnston took from a lady passenger -- Mrs. Dr. Sampson, of Kingston, I believe,-on board the Peel on the night of the piracy. I purpose making some enlargements from this negative, and will be glad to send you one. I also expect to be able to send you soon a picture of the Pirate's daughter in her younger days.

Believe me to be,

Faithfully yours,

W. J. Wraith

P.S. I have just returned from Toronto Reference Library. They have "The Empress of the Isles." It is a story by Charlie Clewline, a newspaperman. As a story it is poorly written, artificial and unconvincing; as history it is probably on a par with current newspaper articles of that day. I have also seen Tales of the St. Lawrence, by Chapin. The two articles previously referred to are interesting. Another book which I located -- Three Years in Canada, 1837-39, by T. R. Preston: London, 1840 -- contains some really worth while information, including a paragraph on Lett; I purpose making some extended extracts next week.

W.J.W.

I am not sure, but I think "The Empress of the Isles" is in Toronto Reference Library. Now that you have mentioned it, I shall look it up. I am tempted to take a trip to Canfield to see Miss McMahon, if she is still alive.

Only yesterday I picked up a comparatively recent book entitled Old Province Tales, by Archibald McMeechan. This is a series of Nova Scotia fact stories which tells, among other things, how a band of pirates captured a British vessel in 1843. One of the pirates adopted the alias of Johnston, and was called "Bill." Obviously he had tried to assume a little false glory.

Tales of the St. Lawrence, by Gardner B. Chapin, I have not seen and would much like to see. The articles dealing with the Hunter Lodge Movement and the attempt of the British officer, Boyd, to capture Johnston would be of great value to me.

Those articles from the Watertown Times of 1923 would seem to be a gold mine of information. Curiously enough, I have been making arrangements to go to Kingston, Bath and Gananoque again, early next month, to complete some further research. If you will let me know the expected date of your arrival, I will endeavor to meet you. Perhaps you could bring the scrap book with you. My trip, I expect, will take me into New York State, perhaps as far as Albany where there is some good material in the State Library; but that portion of it will be somewhat short.

In Gananoque there is the MS. of a book written by the late Miss Edith McCammon, in which, I am informed, she has made extended reference to Bill Johnston. I have been promised the privilege of reading this MS., which is now in the local newspaper office.

I have always doubted that story about Johnston landing at Queenston and taking off several stand of British arms. He was indeed quite capable of doing such a thing -- perhaps he did it -- but my own opinion is that he never left Lake Ontario, that is, on any nautical enterprise.

Johnston, at the Battle of the Windmill, left himself open to a suspicion of cowardice; but I think you are quite right in your opinion that he was not a coward. His whole life was full of brave and daring deeds. From Albany prison he wrote a letter, dated Dec.14, 1838, in which he outlined his attitude toward the Prescott enterprise and declared that he had advised against it.

There are so many things I would like to say that I scarcely know where to commence and where to end. When I first undertook this labor of love some eight months ago, I had no idea that it would lead so far afield or involve such labor and expense. Were it not for co-operation such as you are giving, I doubt if I could carry through successfully. Hence you may understand that I am truly grateful for your help. Please do not apologize for the arrangement or style of your communications; you write clearly and interestingly and in a style which suggests that, if you had the necessary leisure, you could turn out a finished literary product. I hope your opportunity will come. I shall look forward anxiously for your further notes on Johnston's 1812-19 period, after you have seen your father, and I will try not to keep you waiting long for the first chapters of the book MS.

Memoradum of Material re Bill Johnston

1. His early days at Bath, Ont. -- Manufactured potash -- removal to Kingston and establishment of a small store -- His arrest and imprisonment for refusing to serve in the militia -- His escape from prison. -- Anecdotes of himself and his brother, Andrew. -- Some old parish records of Bath.

2. His activities in the War of 1812-14 -- References to other United States officers associated with him -- Captain Vaughan who arrested him in 1838 and was rewarded by having his own son pardoned after the Battle of the Windmill.

3. Johnston in 1837 -- his part in Navy Island episode and the attempted invasion of Canada from Hickory Island.

4. Johnston in 1838 -- Burning of the Peel steamboat -- "Fort Wallace" his St. Lawrence stronghold: description of it by one of the Pirates -- Incidents of his career as a pirate -- Kate Johnston -- Politics, persons and political intrigues of that year. -- Attack on Prescott.

5. Johnston in 1839 -- Material from Dominion Archives revealing his activities and the efforts of British naval and military authorities to chase him out of the Islands.

6. Material from Ontario Archives: official despatches and reports pertaining to Johnston -- Mail robbery near Kingston -- Murder, robbery and invasion plot, in which Johnston figured, at Cobourg -- Numerous items from old newspapers relating to Johnston's capture, trial and escape, and the trials of the Peel pirates -- Some first-hand journalistic pictures of Johnston and his daughter in those days.

7. Johnston in civilian life -- his pardon -- Keeper of Rock Island Lighthouse and various hotels and resorts -- Anecdotes

8. Johnston's family history -- Births, marriages and deaths of his sons and daughter -- his last days -- Anecdotes and reminiscences of old people still living who knew him and his daughter well.

This memorandum is in merest outline only. I have a picture of the Pirate, old Rock Island lighthouse, the new lighthouse, "Fort Wallace" Island, other scenes made memorable by his exploits, old wharf where the Peel was burned, John Johnston (his son), Kate Johnston-Hawes' only son, and a silk apron stolen from a passenger on the Peel.

I want a picture of Kate Johnston in her youth and beauty, her mother, and some old letter written by herself or her father.

W.J.W.

...S OF '37--GRAVE, GAY AND GRIM.

REBELLION TIMES IN THE CANADAS.

BY

ROBINA AND KATHLEEN M. LIZARS.

p. 162. GALLOWS HILL.

We follow the sun through the Thousand Islands, where it touched each evergreen crest with glory to make a crown of isles for the great pirate king, BILL JOHNSTON, who had a trick of posing, blunderbus in hand, ready for attack; to the homes of the Bay of Quinte, where the descendants of Rogers' Rangers were ready for defence; to the winter rainbows of the Niagara and the opaline ripples in La Traverse of the St. Clair. It tinged the spiral columns of smoke which singly rose from immigrant cabins and, mingling, turned to clouds of sweet-smelling incense. It sank to rest in Huron, and the vast country over which it had made its day's journey lay behind it, angry, sullen, fearing, uncertain, where, of the two dispensations, one was in throes of birth and the other feared those of death.

p. 231. AUTOCRATS ALL.

The destruction of the Caroline surprised everyone, Americans, Canadians, even the chief actors; it let loose the tongues of ministers and diplomats, and it gave a great impulse to the outside movement of sympathisers or patriots. The success of Drew's action made the last wary; but the howl of indignation, which for a time was allowed to have some show of reason, served as a cloak under which to add retaliation to what before had been dubbed patriotism alone. Sugar Island, Bois Blanc, and the schooner Anne followed in quick succession; but the most direct outrage as a result of it was that against the Sir Robert Peel under the management of an autocrat on the other side of the warfare, handsome and distinguished looking as Mackenzie himself, determined as Drew, uncompromising as Prince, with an air and halo of romance over all his actions arising partly from his personality, partly from the romantic beauty of his surroundings--- the redoubtable BILL JOHNSTON, king of the Thousand Islands.

General Van Rensselaer, in sash and epaulets, with his encampment on Navy Island, backed by two or three hunderd vagabonds, making war upon Great Britain, was a ridiculous person. But Bill Johnston, the buccaneer, armed to the teeth, actuated by revenge for real injuries, carrying out his threat to be a thorn in Great Britain's side, flying from island to island, a price set upon his head, determined to sell his life at desperate cost, devoted to his daughter and adored by his children has a touch of poetry about him which almost justified what he devoutly believed himself-- that it was a glorious thing to be a pirate king. It is a come-down to have to admit that one of his occupations was robbing the Canadian mails, when he would take the clothes off the occupants of the coach and beat whoever refused him, tie the coachman to a tree-- as he did between Gananoque and Kingston--- and leave the man there. He once captured a dragoon carrying despatches, took the man and his horse to the lake shore, shot the horse, put the despatch-bag in his boat, and let the man find his way on foot to report himself to his captain,

This was the personage concerning whom Silas Fletcher one of the refugees from Gallows Hill, wrote from Watertown to Navy Island, that he was a man in whom it was perfectly safe to confide, "a gentleman of intelligence, equal to fifty ordinary men", recommended for a commission because he could "greatly annoy the Kingstonians", his influence so great that he could raise two hundred as bold volunteers as ever drew a trigger. Some of the sympathizers had a faculty for arousing admiration; for about this time a lady in Rochester, who kept a private school where some Toronto girls were sent, allowed her pupils to work a silken flag to be presented to the pirate force.

Johnston and his followers had many disguises. In their attacks on isolated farm-houses it was their pleasure to adopt the dress of ordinary sailors, and in their expedition to the island of Canti--- a Canadian possession of Lord Mountcashel,

History of county of Lennox & Addington 1913
Walter S. Herrington K.C. Napanee.

P25 First loyalists sailed from New York Sept 8th 1783 arrived Quebec Oct 8th 1783 Wintered at Sorel. Others came by way of Hudson River, Mohawk River Wood Creek Oneida Lake Oswego River to Lake Ontario. Others by Hudson R. Lake Champlain to Sorel

P27 Flat bottomed boats to Kingston & in June 16 1784 landed at Adolphustown.

P38 U.E.L. honorary title conferred upon those who declared themselves loyal to British before Treaty of Separation 1783. Executive Council of Province of Quebec in 1799 directed Land Boards to register the names of all entitled. Was not carried out

P39 1787 hard year or "Hungry Year".

P31 No grant or patent to the allotted lands issued until 1795 & only on presentation of ticket or certificate which had previously been issued.

When lots were drawn it included 3rd & 4th concession.

P48 Kingston Almanac* published 1840 gives *not a paper.

Camden East 3,155
Ernesttown 3,976 } population

W. Anderson Post master at Fredericksburgh

P59 References from original minute book of town meetings of Adolphustown from 1792-1849

P105 Ernesttown pop. 2450 in 1818 with 13 common schools

P119. - John Taylor Innkeeper in township of Thurlow.
Oct 23rd 1823. ——— ?.

P149 Verses sung by Mrs J.H. Percy since 1862 see over →

P150 In 1790 two Quaker preachers came to township of Adolphustown by appointment. Can Society of Friends originated here

P153 In early spring U.E.L's tented between Bath & Hallowell Haven Total with Sir John Johnson were 400 men were members (over)

of 2nd Batt. of Kings New York Rangers.
Drawings made from hat used small cards & was given location ticket.

P.154 Pop in 1811 was 2 300 - Ernesttown.

P.170 Bath since 1848 (597)?
Wm Johnston & Chas Burley - Merchants
Wm Burley - Hatter (582)?
James Johnston & J J Johnston Saddlers & Harness Makers

P 173 Jremiah Storms kept tavern at Storm's Corners.

P 175 Wilton - 1853
Pomeroy Dr T Physician
Taylor Dr H Do.

P 179 Odessa 1843
Merchants Lewis Allen Chas Albert Walker, Sidney J. Walker

P 180 Johnston walker moved in 1858 from old Red Tavern to a new brick one - Odessa (Uncle Brother of Gr. grandma Howe)

P 190 Amherst Island
First record of transfer of title to an actual settler in Amherst Island is in 1800? Soon after this emigrants from Ireland began to settle in Western end among them being Allens & Burleighs

P 193 Wm Allen donated a site to Pres. Church Amherst Id

P 194 First schools in Amherst Island about 1833 & Robert (?) Burleigh among first teachers.

P 197 Wm Johnston, whose Hq was Hickory Island below Gananoque, with a few kindred spirits came in boats to North shore of Amherst Island & in dead of night attacked house of Mr. Preston. They placed guards at entrance & proceeded to attack & plunder inmates. Mrs Preston eluded guards & proceeded to give alarm. Preston & his sons attacked, one of latter receiving slight wound in arm from pistol shot. The pirates beat a hasty retreat when alarm was given Company

P 198 of Volunteers enrolled Robert Burleigh Paymaster-Sergeant James Castello(?) Edw. Allen privates.

P 206 Early Merchants of Spencer's Mills Richmond Tship was Robert Martin

P 284 Camden – earliest settlers about 1800. Albert Williams settled at Camden East 1804.

P 287. Papers & Records of Lennox & Addington Historical Society by Geo Anson Aylesworth

P 288 - Newburgh seems first settlers about 1822 – 5

Switzers Chapel south of Newburgh 1½ mi erected about 1826

P 290 Newburgh mostly in 1825 sawmills first merchant - 1828

P 299 Newburgh since 1853

merchant L E Percy M Ryan

Blacksmith John Percy

Sawmill John Pomeroy

Asa Factory Jos Taylor

P 301 Centreville

First store 1842

P 305 Camden East Langhorn Register contains record of baptism of Sewantha Rush at Camden on June 29th 1791

P 306 First actual settler at Camden East of whom there is preserved a complete record was Albert Williams who between 1800-4 moved to lot 25 1st concession.

P. 107. Daniel Ross & Leonard Brown did roadwork in 1820 in 1st Conc of Ernestown.

P. 114 Dpnd 30 – May 5th 1810. John, Deanny & Jenny Vrsburg on school register. The family names point to the neighborhood of Wilton & Odessa as the territory from which these pupils were drawn & the school house was doubtless somewhere in that vicinity

P 115 In the register of attendance kept by a teacher in the front of Ernestown in 1832 I find the following record for the week beginning Monday Jan. 2nd. — Mrs. Walker, subscriber

P. 116 The family names indicate that the school was near Millhaven — Henry Walker a pupil.

The teacher kept a diary & Feb 2nd. 1832 Mr. Edward Walker shot himself this morning at W. Kents barn

P140

Near the old chapel [Methodist] on Hay Bay in 1819, occurred the saddest event that ever befell that part of the county. All nature seemed to smile on that bright Sabbath morning of Aug. 20th as eighteen young people, jubilant with the spirit of the season seated themselves in a flat-bottomed boat at Casey's Point, and the young men plied the oars as they turned the prow towards the opposite shore to attend quarterly meeting in the house chapel. With innocent jests & snatches of sacred songs they moved merrily over the surface of the bay until, as they neared the landing-place, the boat began to leak and, in the confusion which followed, capsized, plunging all the passengers into the water. The service was in progress, and the officiating clergyman had just given utterance to the prayer that "it might be a day long to be remembered" when the congregation was startled by screams of terror, rushing from the church saw the unfortunate victims struggling for their lives. Every effort was made to save them from their perilous position, but of the eighteen, who a few minutes before were overflowing with the happiness of youth, only nine were saved.

On the following day nine coffins were ranged side by side in front of the chapel and the Reverend Mr. Puffer, taking as his text "I know that my Redeemer liveth", endeavoured to preach a funeral sermon; but was so overcome with emotion in the presence of a large congregation, who could not restrain their tears, that he was unable to finish his discourse. In the old grave-yard near by may still be seen the last resting-place of the drowned. It is needless to say that the disaster was long remembered; and the sympathy of the district went out to the stricken families, among them being some of the best known in the

V.

Settlement of Upper Canada - Scadding.

P. 654. Andrew Johnson - member of Rogers Battn
Had two sons (among seven). Andrew, still alive in
1854, was a native of Gainsborough New York State
& came with his father at the first settlement of Up. Can.
Was eye witness of first days of Ernestown & Kingston.
Was engaged in beginning of 19 cent as mail carrier
from Kingston to York - by way of bay shore to Adolphus-
town, across Bay at Stone Mills, by Dickon & Wellington
to Carrying Place, then along Lake Shore to York. Would
spend 5 hours in York & start back. Trips made gen-
erally once a fortnight. Subsequently lived in Bath
for 40 yrs where he kept a tavern (was total abstainer)
his father's log house used by Rev. Mr. Stuart to preach
in for 3 yrs before the frame building was erected on
the hill, which would hold 300 or 400 persons. Story & a half.
Andrew is now upward of a hundred. Is man of some-
what low stature, small frame, with spare limbs.
During war he & Mr. Lockwood started, during the
war 1812-5, to walk from Prescott to Kingston but-
Lockwood says that Johnson could walk 3 miles to his one.
His brother Bill had a fast horse which could outrun
anything. Andrew offered to bet $100 that he could go to
York quicker than the horse. Offer not accepted. Andrew
was a loyal soldier in 1812 & belonged to the same
company as his brother.

Bill Johnson brother of Andrew & one of the
sons who reached maturity of Jas. Johnson. Was
born in Ernestown. His youthful days were

spent in the vicinity of what is now the village of Bath. About the time of the commencement of War of 1812 he was engaged in Kingston in trading & had a store of general merchandise. When the first draft for men was made, Johnson was one of the conscripts. For a very short time, he did service, & then procured his brother (not Andrew) as a substitute. There was not at this time any doubt of his loyalty. It was natural he should desire to attend to his business in Kingston, which at this time was lucrative. And there does not appear that he employed his brother in other than good faith. But some time after his brother entered the service he deserted to the U. S. shore. Even now it does not appear that the authorities of Kingston suspected his loyalty, for they desired that he should take his place in the ranks which his brother had forsaken. This however "Bill" would not do. The result was that a file of soldiers commanded by Serjt Lockwood (our principal informant) was sent to arrest Johnson by order of the Captain Matthew Clark of Ernestown.

Upon the approach of the soldiers, Johnson shouted to Serjt Lockwood, who had been his life-long playmate, "I know what you are after, but you won't get me yet" & immediately shut the door & turned the key. Lockwood without hesitation, raised his musket, and with the butt knocked the door open, in time to see

Settlement of Upper Canada — Bannister-

Bill escaping by the back door. A close chase ensued into a back enclosure, & Lockwood succeeded in catching him by the leg as he was passing through a window. Johnson then submitted & was conveyed a prisoner to the guardhouse within the jail. After being confined for some time he escaped by breaking the jail; probably aided by sympathizers, for a good many thought he was badly treated.

Whatever may have been Johnson's feelings towards the British Govt before, he now became a most determined enemy of his native country. He vowed he should be a thorn in Great Britain's side; and his goods & some property at Bath, a few town lots, being confiscated, he declared he would get back all he lost. The forgoing occurrence took place some time during the fall of 1812. It would appear that Bill Johnson set to work in a systematic manner to carry out his threats.

Being well acquainted with the country & people, and, withal, a bold, determined & fearless man, he did not hesitate to visit the Can. shore, and was even seen at Bath in daylight. He built several small boats, light & trim, and he would at times unhesitatingly voyage upon the broad lake in bold undertakings. His operations consisted in privateering, in inducing American sympathizers to accompany him to the States & in acting as a

spy. During the war there were frequently
loads of goods, consisting of liquors & other valu
articles passing up the bay & across the carrying
thence to York. On one occasion Thos. Parker, w
was engaged in the business, left Kingston with a
batteau laden with valuables for York. Johnson, wh
watched such events, saw Parker depart. While the
latter made his way up the bay, Johnson proceeded
in his craft around by the lake, & awaited Parker
off Presqu'isle. In due time the batteau was
seized by Johnson & his comrades, and taken to the
other side, Parker being landed on Point Traverse,
off Marysburg.

Another exploit was the seizure of Govt. despatches
near Brighton. A company of Dragoons, Capt. Shinson,
were on duty to carry despatches between the River
Trent & Smith's Creek, Port Hope. On a certain occasion
when a dragoon, by the name of Gardner, was pursuing
his way with despatches, he was suddenly seized
by Johnson, who deliberately took him with his horse
to the lake shore, where he shot the horse, placed the
despatch bag in his boat, & then permitted the man
to find his way on foot through the woods to report
to his captain.

Bill Johnson still lives (1869?) at French
Creek upon the American shore of the St. Lawrence.
He was an active participant in the events of
1837, and it is supposed had much to do in re-
cruiting for the army of sympathizers. There is
so much of fiction to be found respecting him

IX

Settlement of Upper Canada. Bannister Bill's connection with that time, that it is difficult ensure what part he did take. It has generally been supposed that he was one of the few who escaped in the Windmill, but while, no doubt, he was engaged at the time, there is nothing to rest a decided statement upon. We suspect that "Bill" in his later days was given to boasting a little, & took pleasure in catering to the taste of his Yankee friends in relating what he & his daughter Kate did (in imagination) X

P 608 Roll of 2nd Batt. Kings Royal Regt New York Feb 28 1764
also known as Johnson Regt 2nd Bn of 84th Regt or Royal Greens.

Joseph Randal (Randolph?)
Nicholas Brown
James Brown
Robert Martin (might be Annis Martin [illegible]
Samuel Ball (might be son-in-law of [illegible]

Canadian Rebellion of 1837 - D. B. Read Q. C.

P. 354 - Attack on windmill at Prescott.

In crossing the river one of the schooners, commanded by one Bill Johnson, who had for some time been alarming defenceless people on the Can. shore, was in some way run ashore on a bar in the river. The unfortunate Von Shultz was left with only one schooner & 170 men with which to make conquest of Can.

P 356. 157 prisoners taken by Canadians & 11 were executed including Von Shultz who never forgave Bill Johnson & the other leaders of the expedition for their desertion of him when endeavouring to hold his post against odds.

county. Of the dead there were two Germans, two Dillons, one Bogart, one Robbin, one Blank, one Madden, & one Cole.

Without commenting upon its literary merits I reproduce a poem published in a Nanaimo paper thirty-six years after the sad occurrence:

Come all ye young people of every degree,
Read o'er these lines which are penned down by me;
And while you are reading these lines which are true,
Remember this warning is also for you.

In the year of our Lord eighteen hundred & nineteen,
On the twentieth of August on Sunday I mean,
The place where it happened I also wrote down
The loss may be told of in Adolphustown.

These people were in health and all in their prime,
All modestly clothed in apparel so fine,
To Church they were going their God to adore
They to reach the said place had a bay to cross o'er.

The boat being small and their number eighteen,
To go o'er together they all ventured in,
They launched away, singing a sweet hymn,
The moments near by them were hid from their eyes.

The voice of Jehovah speaks unto us all,
To always be ready & come at his call,
And while you are reading these mournful lines o'er,
Death may be sent for you & enter your door.

The boat being leaky the water came in,
To bail with their hats they too late did begin,
They looked at each other, beginning to weep,
The boat filled with water & sunk in the deep.

their friends on the shoar, to help them with speed,
And eight of the number from the water was freed,
There were brothers and sisters, and parents also
Soon heard the sad story which filled them with woe.

A seine was prepared to draw them to land,
their friends with loud weeping all round them did stand,
Such scenes of lamenting I ne'r saw before;
The loss was so fatal that none could restore.

There was Jane & John Berman, Peter Bogart also,
There was Mary & Jane Dillon in the water below,
There was Matilda Roblin and Betsy McCoy,
Betsy Clark, Huldah Madden and the late Mary Cole

To unchangeable regions their spirits had fled,
And left their poor bodies inactive & dead,
They solemnly were borne into the Church yard
Their graves in rotation for them were prepared.

On the Monday following their coffins were made
And into the same their dead bodies were laid.
Their friends with loud weeping on the shore did stand,
Their bodies preparing to enter the sand.

The sermon delivered on that mournful scene
By one, Isaac Puffer from Job, the nineteenth,
Although these dead bodies the worms may destroy,
They will see God in glory and fullness of joy.

The sermon being o'er and brought to a close
With a few words of comfort addressed unto those,
Whose hearts were quite broken and filled with grief
And in a few moments those bodies must leave.

And now we must leave them beneath the cold ground,
Till Gabriel's trumpet shall give the last sound,
Arise ye that sleepeth, arise from the tombs,
And come forth to judgment - to hear thy just doom.

P. 152. Ernestown + Bath.

This Township was first settled in 1784 by members of the Second Battalion of Sir John Johnson's regiment, the King's New York Royal Rangers. The Report of the Ontario Bureau of Archives, 1905, thus epitomizes the career of this illustrious soldier: The name of Sir John Johnson is overshadowed by the greater name of Sir William Johnson, his father. Yet his own services were many and important. He joined the army as a volunteer in the Revolutionary War and operated largely among the Mohawk Indians. He raised and commanded a regiment of two battalions in Canada, named the Royal Greens. He defeated Herkimer in 1777 at Fort Stanwix and suffered defeat in 1780 at Fox's mill. He was knighted by the King at London in 1765 & died at Montreal in 1822.

P. 197 There is a short chapter of Canadian History which you will not find in any of the school histories. It may be classed with the Battle of the Windmill at Prescott, as one of the closing scenes of the Mackenzie Rebellion of 1837-8, although not so serious in its results.

Having met with no better success on the Niagara frontier than at Montgomery's tavern, it seems that Mackenzie turned his steps eastward and planned a night attack on Kingston over the frozen river in the winter of 1838. For some reason the attack was not made, although the soldiers & citizens of ~~Kingston~~ the limestone City were quite prepared to receive him & any who might chose to accompany him

"Two filibusters, Bill Johnston, a Canadian and Van Rensselaer, an American, did, however, get a large number of patriots collected at Hickory Island, below Gananoque, but these nearly all dispersed when they heard that the volunteer militia were ready to march against them.

"Bill Johnston & a few kindred spirits, however, remained in their hiding-places among the Thousand Islands, eluding the vigilance of the authorities of the law, & living the lives of pirates & outlaws for a time. They took possession of the steamer Sir Robert Peel, & after robbing the passengers & plundering the ship, set fire to her.

"They also came in boats to the north shore of Amherst-Island, & in the dead hours of the night made an attack on the house of Mr. Preston. They placed guards at the entrance & then proceeded to attack & plunder the inmates. Mrs. Preston managed, however, to elude the guards & proceeded to give the alarm. Bill & his gang of ruffians met with a warm reception from Mr. Preston & his brave sons, one of whom was slightly wounded by a pistol shot. The pirates beat a hasty retreat when the alarm was given. This wanton attack naturally alarmed the citizens of good Isle Tonti, as it was then called; for what safety could they have in their homes with such a gang of lawless desperados hovering about. A company of volunteers was soon enrolled, armed, & placed under command of Capt. John S. Cumming. A stone house had just been built by William Colson, on his farm, opposite "The Brothers" (islands). Within its strong walls the company was stationed for a time until a suitable barracks was built on the Patterson farm at a point in full view of the lower Gaps. Here the men were quartered until peace was restored & they were disbanded, each man being allowed to take his flint-lock home with him. In this age of long range rifles the old flint-locks would be con-

P.36. Another narrative ~~that~~ adds much to the charm of the Thousand Islands is concerned with the early years of the second quarter of the nineteenth century. The belief was at that time widely accepted both in Canada & the United States that the former country was being inflicted with the same abuses ~~that~~ had caused the thirteen American colonies to fight for their independence. A body of Canadian rebels established headquarters on Navy Island in the Niagara River, a short distance above the falls, & from there pretended to rule Canada. A little sidewheel steamer, the Caroline, went back & forth between the island & Buffalo carrying provisions to the rebels. But one dark winter night- a company of the "Men of Gore" as the government troops guarding the Canadian shore called themselves, rowed across the swift & dangerous current, seized the Caroline as she lay at her wharf, put the crew ashore, set ~~fire to it~~ the steamer on fire & sent her all ablaze over Niagara Falls. As a consequence, the Navy Island rebels were starved out.

This act roused the ire of an American who was familiarly called "Bill" Johnson, & who now became a sort of political Robin Hood intent to confer on Canada the boon of freedom. He got together a band of outlaws, or patriots, if one accepts their view, & on the night of May 30, 1838, he & his followers, disguised as Indians & armed with muskets, boarded the Canadian steamer, Sir Robert Peel, while en route from Brockville to Toronto, carrying twenty passengers & a large amount of money to pay off the troops in the Upper Province. With shouts of "Remember the Caroline!" the "patriot" band forced the passengers & crew to take to the boats. Then the steamer was set on fire & left to her fate. The hull is still to be seen where it sank about a mile down the river from Thousand Island Park.

Johnson, elated with his success, made a personal declaration of war; but fortune favored him with no further conquests, & this "P[illegible] of the Thousand Islands" soon became a fugitive from justice. His daring & devoted daughter Kate rowed him from hiding-place to hiding-place, & kept him supplied with food. Kate at length succeeded in securing his pardon, & he became a lighthouse keeper.

J. H. CAMPBELL,
PRESIDENT

AESCULAPIAN SOCIETY

G. N. ELLIS,
SECRETARY

QUEEN'S UNIVERSITY

KINGSTON, ONT. 19

She herself married happily & was much loved & respected for her devotion to her father in the gloomy days of his outlawry. A secluded isle known as "The Devil's Oven" on which he was concealed for over a year belongs to one of her descendants.

Johnston 6

U. E. L. Claims.

915. James Johnson, late of Charlotte Co. Montreal, Sept. 28, 1787.

Resided at Mashishe. Is a native of Ireland. Came young to Am.; lived on Artillery Pat.; joined in 77. Served ever since.

Had 125 acres in Artillery Patent. Lease was 999 years at 1s. pr. acre. Took it in '71. Cleared 30 acres. Built a house.

Had 9 Cattle, 2 horses, 5 hogs, furniture & utensils. These things were taken by the Rebels in '77.

Produces a affidavit from Cyrenus Parks & Saml. Welch, that Claimt. had a farm 30 or 40 acres clear & a good stock.

Marginal Note: A good man.

James Johnson, Wits. for James Parke of Artillery Patent.

James Johnston gave affidavit regarding claim of John Grisdale of Provincial Patent.

6




Devils Oven
Island, Thousand
Islands, N. Y.
23779

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PIRATE BILL DEFIED THE BRITISH

(By FRED WILLIAMS.)

News travelled slowly as a rule a hundred years ago; but there were exceptions, and one of them came within a very few days of Lord Durham's assumption of office as Governor-General at Quebec on May 29, 1838. That very night was chosen for the perpetration of one of the most flagrant acts of defiance of British authority on the St. Lawrence in all our history. Inspired by hatred of British institutions, although the son of United Empire Loyalists (he was born at Three Rivers, Feb. 1, 1782, as his parents were on their way to Upper Canada), Bill Johnson waged war on the British from the safety of New York State. There are different versions of why this son of loyal parents became a traitor. One is that while serving in the militia of Dundas County in the War of 1812-14 he incurred the displeasure of a regimental sergeant-major, which so soured him that his loyalty forthwith turned to treason. Anyway, he crossed the river and took command of a crowd of bandits, some of them, like himself, renegade Canadians, and later others, American filibusters, urged to action by the vituperative campaign which William Lyon Mackenzie was waging in New York. For months they preyed upon the Canadian shore from a hide-out on Abel's Island, just below Alexandria Bay, raiding the border communities and traders.

Then with the news that Queen Victoria had sent out a special Commissioner of Conciliation, Bill decided upon a dramatic coup to prove to Britain that he, as "Commodore of the Naval Forces and Flotilla" of "the Patriots," would show that. though Britain might rule the waves, she did not rule the upper St. Lawrence. So he and his gang, disguised as Indians, started from their hide-out at twilight on May 29, pulled up stream in two longboats to lie in wait for any steamboat of British ownership that might appear. They were "armed to the death" with muskets, bayonets, swords, dirks and pistols.

At midnight the Sir Robert Peel—speediest and most luxurious vessel on inland waters—(built by Judge Jonas Jones at Brockville, launched in 1837, and commanded by Captain John Armstrong) went by en route from Prescott to Toronto, heavily laden with passengers and carrying much Government money. Quietly and unseen, the longboats fell in behind her, like wolves stalking their prey.

Captain Armstrong tied up at McDonald's wharf, a fueling place on the south side of Wells Island, to take on cordwood. Johnson and his gang landed at a wharf some rods below, and advanced through dark and tangled woods to attack the Peel from the land side. Fourteen of the pirates lost their way. Thirteen, led by Johnson, won through. For a moment they hesitated. The odds against them were eight to one.

"Come on!" yelled Johnson. "Thirteen's a lucky number. If we miss this chance, we may never have another!"

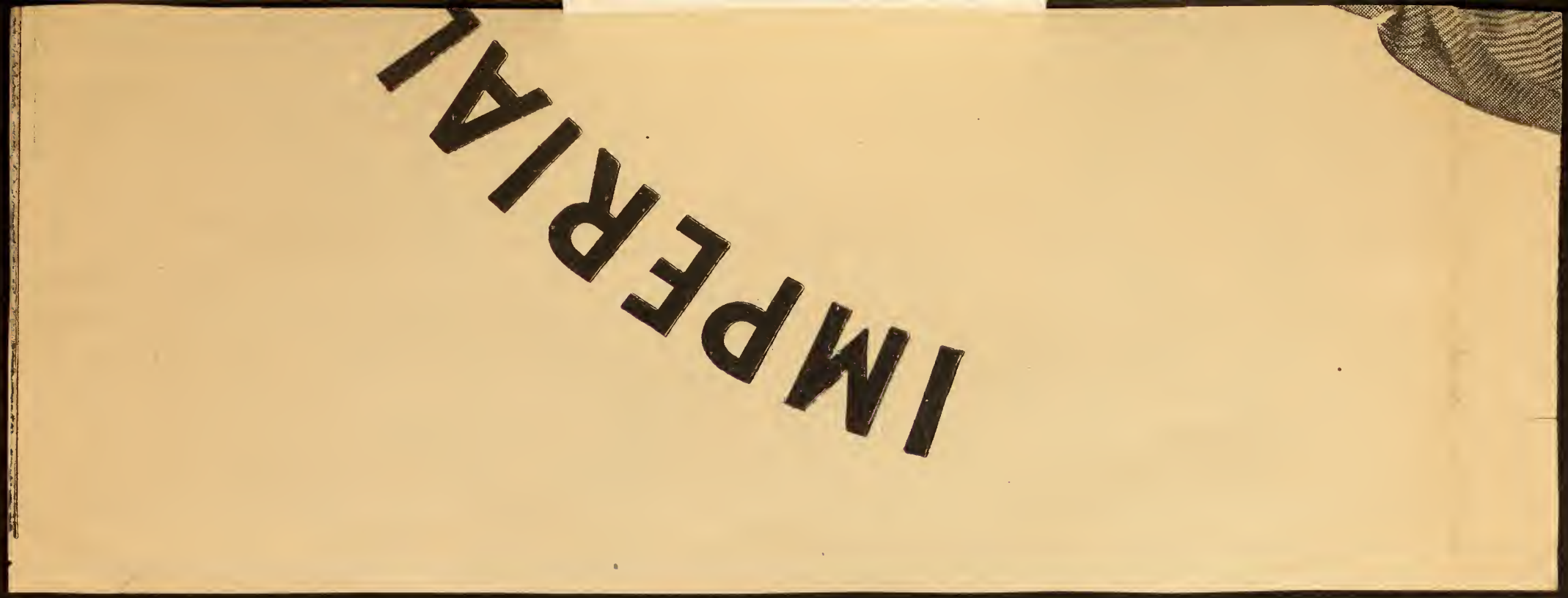
Thirteen terrifying demons, seemingly wild, painted Indians, rushed aboard the Peel, shouting, "Remember the Caroline" (the vessel sunk by Drew and MacNab at Navy Island the previous December). Ninety deck passengers were booted, cuffed and prodded down the gangplanks. Cabins were smashed open; their occupants, half-dressed, women in their night clothes, were dragged out and forced ashore. In fifteen minutes the vessel was cleared. Then her cables were cut. Johnson planned to mount her with cannon and use her to capture the steamer Great Britain the next day; but none of the pirates could operate her engines. She drifted helplessly with the current. An anchor was dropped and she came to rest—over her own grave. Her captors plundered her, set her on fire, and pulled away, and the flames of her burning lighted up many miles of the great river. (For many of the above details I am indebted to Mr. W. J. Wraith, whose story of the career of Bill Johnson is nearing publication.)

The news of the outrage was rushed to Toronto by special messenger. At once Sir George Arthur, then Lieutenant-Governor, issued a proclamation, dated May 31, urging the loyal people of Upper Canada not to retaliate, but to rely upon the international comity of a friendly nation for redress, warning masters of British ships on Lake Ontario to be on their guard, and expressing "to her Majesty's faithful and loyal subjects my entire confidence in their dignified forbearance, and that the British flag, which has been so nobly defended by them, will not now be stained by having outrage or insult offered to the persons or property of foreigners within its territory and under its protection."

Now comes the curiously rapid transmission of the news of the affair down to Quebec. The facts were not known at Toronto until May 31, yet on June 2, Lord Durham at Quebec issued a proclamation offering one thousand pounds reward for the identification of the perpetrators of the outrage, promising present and permanent protection to British subjects along the St. Lawrence and Lake Ontario; and asserting: "I shall lose no time in appealing to the Government of the United States to vindicate its own honor by avenging the insult which has been offered to their authority by a band of lawless pirates and repairing the wrongs which have been inflicted upon her Majesty's subjects."

And, remarkable though it was, in less than a hundred hours after the capture of the Sir Robert Peel, Colonel Grey, Durham's brother-in-law, was on his way to Washington with a formal protest, a request for punitive action, and a hope that the incident would not shatter the good relations between the two countries. Which is pretty conclusive evidence that Durham lost no time and that news was not always slow in its journey a century ago.

But Pirate Bill never paid the penalty for the destruction of the Sir Robert Peel. Some of his companions were arrested, tried and acquitted at Watertown. Bill was arrested four times on other charges of border outrages; but he escaped four times, proving either the power of his "pull" or the futility or cupidity of State officials. But his end was fitting to his career. He died in poverty at Clayton, N.Y., Feb. 17, 1870, a drunken derelict, whose exploits on the world's stage had been forgotten by his neighbors while Canada had grown into a Dominion.


IMPERIAL

Reply
6. Sep. 1965



Just a Note...

feel that with your help we will eventually get the Johnson "clan" straightened out. I am most anxious that my children and grandchildren have the correct "dope" on their ancestors.

Our sincere thanks and hope to see you again. Sincerely Chas. O. Johnson

O. S. Johnson,
89 Howland Ave.,
Toronto 4, Ont.

Aug 31-65.

Dear Dr. Burleigh.

Mrs Johnson and I greatly enjoyed your hospitality at your home in Bath yesterday.

While you pulled out many of my "tail feathers" I really

P.S. If you happen to run into anything in connection with Andrew Johnson would appreciate a line or two from you.

Regards etc.



The family you love, the things you own & the future you want—protect them ALL under THE TRAVELERS Umbrella!
THE TRAVELERS INSURANCE COMPANIES

M-6427 Printed in Canada

Johnstons — several families of that name live in Clayton. One family live in the big house near the Post Office. They for a number of years ran a steamboat line from Clayton (French Creek).
Doubtless some of these families are descendants of "Bill Johnston.

Olive Powell
born about 1867-8
aged about 12 when family destroyed by Indians @ 1779
married about 1795
as " 26 or 7

1862-3		
95		
1767		
1779	12	
1797	30	
1811	44	

last ch born 1811 when at 44
died 1862-3 aged 95

	Jas	Ada	Maria W^
b	1799	1801	1811 b?

Husband John? or W^? R. killed in Emerson by falling tree. This would before 1836 & after 1811

Cravens

Ed Connors

" 1

Geo Lovejoy 1

Mr E. Young 3.50

Mrs Walker

P. 389. W. A. Martin

Warden of Lennox & Addington, 1905.

"Alf" Martin, as he is known in & out of public life, son of William Martin, a farmer, was born in the fourth concession of the township of Richmond in 1860. He received a common school education & attended the High School at Napanee for a few terms; but he made the best of his opportunities, & did not lay aside his books when he returned to the farm. He moved with his parents to the township of Camden in 1883, & on the death of his father, in 1900, inherited the farm near Moscow upon which he had lived since leaving Richmond. There is a good strain of Irish blood in his veins, which asserts itself as soon as a general election is announced. Only once was he elected to the township council, yet for eleven years he represented that township in the county council, an achievement which few, if any, in the province have equalled; and one which none can surpass. He was elected deputy-reeve the year before the Act came in force under which the commissioners forming the county council were not members of the township councils, and during the ten years that Act remained in force he was returned as commissioner for Camden.

He keeps abreast of the times upon all public questions, is a pleasing platform speaker, and is quite at home upon the hustings. He once contested the riding of Addington for a seat in the House of Commons, and was by no means dismayed at not receiving the requisite number of votes to enable him to write M.P.

retired out of date. Yet in the hands of these hardy pioneers they would no doubt have rendered effective service. The great victory of Waterloo had been won twenty three years before with exactly the same kind of weapons. But the enemy, no doubt considering that 'discretion is the better part of valour', kept away from our shores.

These men, who in troublous times, stood ready to defend their country and their homes, have all answered the last 'roll call', but their names and their memories will long be remembered with respect on Amherst Island.

The barracks in which they were quartered have long since disappeared, & the stone house above referred to, situated near the North Shore on the farm since owned by Capt. Harry Saunders, is now an uninhabited ruin; sic tempora mutantur."

(Among the list of 71 officers & men of this company is found- Robert Bunbury, Paymaster-Sergeant; & James Castello.

P 307. Camden East-
Merchants Henry Martin

P. 314. First Directors of Bay of Quinte Railway included H. S. Walker of Enterprise.

P. 316 Yarker.
Saddlers. Byron Estes

P. 322. Alonzo Walker merchant Enterprise.
323 Harvey S. Walker died 1882 & is father of Alonzo

P 325 Enterprise
Store keepers Harvey S. Walker Walker & Davy Alonzo Walker
P. Martin & Co.

P. 332 Tamworth.
Merchants. Forshee & Chamberlain, Hinch & Thornton
G. S. Hinch,
Carriage makers Sherman Martin

P. 376 In 1885 Mr. L. L. Gallagher purchased the stock & store of
Mr. D. S. Warner of Wellington

after his name. He is progressive & alert, & being [redacted] a young man he may be heard of again in the political arena.

State Library Bulletin
History No 2 May 1894
Col Records - General Entries Vol 1 1664-65.

MEMORIAL HOSPITAL

161 NORTH PEARL STREET
ALBANY, N. Y.

Long Island.
Nov 22 1664 at Fort James in N. York on island of Manhatten
re sale of land by sachems in 1639 that they
sold Matinicock to Jas Forrett + Capt. Howe
cum socijis

List of Deputies at Hempstead 1664
Flat-lands Robaffe Martens

Watchmen of Bergen.
You are hereby rejd to receive into your town
Corporal Powell + soulders under his command etc
To the magistrates of Bergen.

Thos Powell living at Huntingdon Sond Island
Sept-26 1664

Certificate that Chas Bridges wife Sarah have entered
protest against sales of land By Thos Pell of Onkway
of land situated on East River beginning at the Hill of
Frenchsland E. South East etc.

Grant of land To Thos Powell + others.
Whereas the late Gov.+ counal of New Netherlands did on
10th Jul 1664 grant unto Thos Powle, Hendrick Abels + others a
parcel of land between Newton + Kinderhoeck near Fort
Albany as by their petition + the Grant, I do hereby allow
etc if they + some of them purchase the propriety of the
natives + possess + plant same etc. Signed at Fort James
in New York on Manhatans 2d Mar 24 1665 Richd Nicolls
Commission for Thos. Powell to purchase from natives
Rd Island (5-6 acres) about 5 mi above Fort Albany near
Green Island having on each side a fresh water brook which
runs from maine sig 31 Mar 1665 as in above grant

When The McNab Ruled.

There is something almost stunning in the news from Arnprior that the old McNab home, on the Ottawa River, has been destroyed because it had become a "nuisance." There are few more interesting stories of pioneer days in Canada than that relating to The McNab, Highland Chief, who sought to establish in a new land the dominance a man of his rank enjoyed in the old. The McNab claimed he was "the only Highland Chieftain in America," and no doubt he was.

In 1825 Archibald McNab of McNab brought to Canada from Scotland eighty-five of his clansmen, for whom things weren't going well in the homeland. These retainers of The McNab thought they were coming to a new freedom in a new world, but their Chief had other views. He settled his followers on an immense tract of land in the neighborhood of Arnprior, and he set up also something of a feudal establishment. Instead of freedom, the clansmen were obliged to pay homage to the Chief; also to pay him tithes of all they produced in the way of grain. His debtors were imprisoned.

The Laird's rule was supreme. He married and gave in marriage; administered the law, and his word was the law. When The McNab dined he dined in state, with his own pipers at the back of the great hall in his castle, playing Scottish airs. McNab Township perpetuates his name, but it is surprising how little is known in Canada of his striking career.

Oct. 15, 1936

As became his rank, The McNab was something of a social lion, and—always in full Highland garb—he made long sojourns in Montreal and Toronto, where he was a popular and picturesque figure. He was a Tory of the Tories in politics, and a warm personal friend of Sir Francis Bond Head and similarly minded men of the period.

Of course all this was too good to last. The McNab's disillusioned clansmen became dissatisfied with his stern rule. Conditions were investigated by the authorities. Local tradition has it that it was found the Laird had no title to his broad acres, but history records that in 1842 the Government bought out his rights for $16,000. Thus ended one of the most remarkable adventures in the earlier history of this country. Tradition also records that when, for the last time, the haughty Laird mounted his horse and rode out of the settlement, the clansmen who had brought about his overthrow stood by the roadside and doffed their caps; so ingrained in them was the spirit of fealty to the Chief.

And now, when there is growing a desire to preserve some of the historic homes in Canada, The McNab's impressive dwelling, fallen into decay, is destroyed as a nuisance because of the attraction it held for picnic parties and curious people who desired to learn something of its history. However, McNab Township remains.

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FORT ERIE.

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FOR SU

● Take a tip
Put your moto
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C. C. WAKE

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Welcome

RYSLER D

Proposal Made to Raise Old Vessel Sunk By Johnston

BROCKVILLE, Feb. 21. — Robert Reid, one of the directors of the Alexandria Bay Chamber of Commerce, is enquiring into the possibility of raising the Sir Robert Peel, a Canadian steamer burnt and sunk off Wellesley Island after being attacked by Bill Johnston, self-styled "Admiral of the Thousand Islands," and a group of associates during the Rebellion of 1837.

He plans to have the hull towed to Alexandria Bay for exhibition purposes next summer.

The steamer, carrying passengers, stopped at the island to load wood and was set adrift and burned to the water's edge after Johnston and his companions, disguised as Indians, attacked it during the night, forcing the crew and scantily-clad passengers to leave the ship and pillaging it of its more valuable fitttings.

Johnston was of Canadian birth and citizenship and harbored a grievance against the Canadian Government of the day. He was a native of Three Rivers, Que., and lived in the vicinity of Kingston before the rebellion. The Alexandria Bay Chamber of Commerce is also compiling a story of Johnston's life and deeds in the Thousand Islands section.



w and Save at This G
AMSKY & S
NCESS ST. - KINGSTO

– James 1804

– John 1816

Wm 1822

– Napoleon 1814

Kate 1818

B. Stephen Decatur 1820.

Johnston

But time flies and today
Johnston is but a memory and
our Canadian histories give but
a sentence to one whose name
was known from Florida to N.S.

Drank the guard under the table

like a meteor across the sky.

Conscientiously objecting to military
service when business was so good

If as much less daring deeds
than these Rob Roy won as
well Rob Roy

Confusion
misspelt unhonored numbers

People of Adolphustown

Returns for 1799 April 2nd.

	men	women	male	female	total
James Johnson	1	1	3	1	6
Joshua Hicks	1				1
Hugh Walker	1	1	2		4

1800

Hugh Walker do

1804

Samuel Hoxx 1 1

Personal Notes of Adolphustown People.

Nathaniel Solmes was one of the early residents, but did not remain long in the township. He moved to Sophiasburg, P.E. Edw. Co., & there is but little remembrance of him in Adolphustown. Two of his sons became prominent & wealthy men in Sophiasburg, & there are a number of the descendants residing there now, among the leading citizens. David Barker Solmes ~~was~~ a grandson, is now one of the oldest residents of the township. He was, some years ago, Conservative candidate for the Ontario legislature for hat county, but was defeated by the late Gideon Striker. Another brother, Reuben, was a wealthy citizen. three died in Belleville about ten years ago. Gilbert Solmes, one of the early settlers of Richmond township in Lennox county, was a son of Nathaniel, & lived to be an old man. A number of his descendants are yet resident in the township. They appear to have been all energetic & successful business men, but were not long enough in Adolphustown to take a prominent part there. Capt. Solmes, of the Toronto & Niagara steamers is one of the descendants.

Assessment of Township of Hallowell 1798.

Andrew Johnson, Henery Johnson Thos Richardson

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TORONTO BAY

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ONTARIO, QUEBEC, MANITOBA,
SASKATCHEWAN AND ALBERTA.

CABLE ADDRESS
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WESTERN UNION CODE

TORONTO

November 5. 1923

Dear Sir,

The Oct. 30th issue of "The Queen's Journal" has just reached me. This was forwarded from my address of last winter, 1237 Gerrard E, and has been the only one I have received this year. It makes me wonder if they have been going there regularly, and all except this one either not been redirected or else lost in so doing. I am not a subscriber this year.

Yours very truly,
Roy E. Wagar

Cancelled
Nov 7th/23.

Johnston

U. E. List.

Sergt. James Johnston 2 O.C. 24 Feb., 1807 — restored — and Johnston, James, 3, O.C. 24 Feb., 1807 — suspended. This one a soldier in Jessups. Fredericksburgh James, P.L. 1786, if from Ireland.

Andrew Johnston 2 Son of Sergt. James Johnston

Daniel " 2 " " " "

Johnston's Scrap Book.

James Johnston, Belfast, Ireland. (his father, James? D. at Bath, U.C. aged 104 years.)
Catherine Pegg, New Jersey

~~James~~ Daniel = 1789 Zebiah Shorey →
Hannah = 1789 Sheldin Hawley
Isabell = 1792 Wm Curtis
Andrew = Lucretia — Mary Anne 1807; Thos. Plummer 1809-9; Eve, 1813-13)
Barbarey
Polley (Mary) bp. May 11, 1788 = 1805 Wm Jual
William b. Three Rivers, L.C., Feb. 1, 1782; d Clayton, N.Y.,
m. Sarah Anne Randolph

James E. J. b. Bath, U.C. 22 Jul, 1808; d. 1892
Anne, b. Feb 2, 1810; bur. at Bath, U.C.
William, Jr. 14 Nov., 1812, buried at Watertown, N.Y.
Adah Moriah, b. 29 Dec., 1811
Napoleon Bonaypart, b. 27. Nov., 1814; d. 1896
John Salsberry, b. 11 Sept., 1816 d. Dec. 22, 1896
= Emma J. b. Sep. 15, 1817; d. Oct. 19, 1904
Stephen Decatur, b. 4 July, 1821
Catherine. b 11 Sept., 1819
Billa, b. 30 Aug., 1822

James bp. Jul 4, 1790
Jacob C. R. bp. Feb. 12, 1796
Nathan bp. Mar. 24, 1793 = 1816 Ann George
Catherine = 1815 Lewis Frolick

Langhorn Register.

Hannah Johnson, 2, wits. 6 July, 1788.
" 11 Dec., 1788
marr. Sheldon Hawley 16 Feb., 1789. wits. David Johnson

David Johnson, 2, wits 16 Feb., 1789.
" 11 Feb., 1799.

Daniel Johnson, 2, wits 28 Apr., 1789 with Isabel Johnson
marr Zebiah Storey, 2, 2 Nov., 1789 wits Isabel Johnson
wits 28 Feb., 1792
" 28 Nov., 1805 with Wm of Mary Johnston
Daniel bapt Sep. 30, 1790 Katy, bapt. Feb 26, 1797
James " Dec. 16, 1792 Ruth, " " 24, 1799
Alathea " Sep. 28, 1794 Andrew Thompson bapt Apr. 9, 1801
Isabel Curtis, May 15, 1803
Hannah Hawley, Jul. 21, 1805
Mary, Aug. 16, 1807
Elizth. Anne May 21, 1809
Sarah Ann. Feb. 9, 1812

Isabel Johnson, 2, wits 28 Apr., 1789 with Daniel Johnson
" 2 Nov., 1789 marr. of " "
" 10 Aug., 1791
" 2 Feb., 1792
" 26 " 1792
" 28 Aug 1792
marr Wm Curtis, 2, 8 Nov 1792

James Johnston, 2, wits. 9 Feb., 1804
" 6 Feb., 1811

John Johnston, 2, marr. Rachael Cating, 2, 11 Nov. 1805
Thos. Cook bapt., Nov. 23, 1806
(Thurlow) Julia Margaret Ann, bapt Jul 15, 1808
, 2, Wm Adolphus " Feb. 24, 1811
, 2, James " " 7, 1813

mary Johnston, Dr. marr. Wm Jewel, 2, 28 Nov., 1805 wits Wm + Daniel Johnston.
she. int Feb 8, 1810 he int. Apr. 8, 1810

alethia Johnston 2, marr. John Cook, Camden, 6 Feb., 1811. wits James Johnston

William Johnston 2, wits 28 Nov., 1805
& Sarah Anne ⟶ Jas. Edw. Jewel, Jul. 21, 1807
Anne Catharine, Feb 28, 1809 mt:(1) Sep 9, 1812
(Knipton) Adah Maria, " 24, 1811
" William Peg, " 7 1813

Langhorn Register — 2 —

James & Anne Catherine Johnston, 2, ⟶ Mary, bapt. May 11, 1788
" " " " James " July 4, 1790
" " " " Nathan " mar. 24, 1793
" Katrien " Jacob Curtiss Russel bapt Feb 12, 1796
he mit May 27, 1810

Jacob & Elisabet Johnson, 2 ⟶ Conrad, bapt. Dec. 25, 1794

Andrew & Lucretia Johnston, 2, ⟶ Mary Anne bapt Mar. 1, 1807
Thos. Plummer, " " 28, 1809 mit Apr. 7, 1809
Eve. " May, 11, 1813 mit May 13, 1813

John Johnston, 2 mit. Dec. 22, 1794

Elizabeth Johnston mit Mar. 1, 1819

John Johnson. Camden, marr. Rachael Cook. Camden, Oct 14, 1810

Walter Johnson, 2, marr. Ann George, 2, Jan. 7, 1816

Catharine Johnson, 2, marr. Lewis Fralick, 2, Jul 25, 1815

Ruth Johnston, 2. marr. Isaac McLaughlin, 2, 26 May, 1816

Margaret Johnston, 3, marr Nicholas Smith, 3, 22 Mar. 1818

David Johnson. Camden, marr. Elizabeth Rush. Camden, 17 Apr. 1821

Henry Johnson. Hallowell, marr. Mary Merritt, 2, 17 July 1821

Duncan Bough & Jane Johnston, 2, ⟶ Duncan no date (between 1827-30)
Peter Holmes & Betsy Johnson. Soph., ⟶ Peter born 13 Nov. 1807

PUBLIC ARCHIVES OF CANADA.

The story of the Upper Canadian Rebellion.
by John Charles Dent.
page 257.

WINDSOR AND WINDMILL.

While matters were thus apparently settling down to their normal condition, the Province was startled from end to end by an occurrence which took place in the upper reaches of the St. Lawrence River, on the night of the 29th of May. The Sir Robert Peel, a Canadian lake steamer chiefly owned by residents of Brockville, and valued at ten thousand pounds, while on her way westward to the ports at the head of Lake Ontario, called at Wells's Island, near the American shore, for the purpose of replenishing her supply of wood. While moored to the wharf she was boarded by the notorious Bill Johnston and a gang of twenty-one persons, some of whom were Canadian refugees, the rest being American sympathizers. It was the middle of the night, and the passengers, among whom were a number of women and children, were sleeping quetly in their berths. The crew were taken completely by surprise, and were in no condition to make any successful resistance. The attacking party were thoroughly armed, and had no difficulty in making themselves masters of the situation. They were disguised in the garb of Indians, and their savage yells and gesticulations fully comported

The captain of the steamer had been informed immediately upon touching at the wharf that a number of armed men had been seen on the island during the day; but he does not appear to have attached any importance to the intelligence, and made no preparation whatever for resistance.

comported with their assumed character. They rushed in the cabins, roused the passengers, and drove them ashore in a half-nude condition, together with the officers and crew. They they plundered the vessel of such portable articles as came readily to hand, including the purses, watches and most of the clothing of the passengers. They next proceeded to tow the steamer out into the stream, but in endeavouring to do so they grounded her bow upon a shoal; whereupon they abandoned their Indian character, and spoke in their native vernacular. Cries of "Remember the Caroline" resounded on all sides, and the scene was a veritable Pandemonium. The steamer was doomed, and the fate of the Caroline awaited her. The river pirates--for such they might well be called--applied the torch to her wood-work, and watched close by until she had burned to the water's edge. They they returned to the New York shore. A little while after daylight, another steamer--the Oneida--arrived at the island, took the passengers on board, and conveyed them in safety to Kingston.

This outrage aroused tremendous indignation through the country, and the Provincial Government offered a reward of five thousand dollars for the conviction of any of those who had taken part in it. Strong representations on the subject were made to Governor Marcy, who issued a proclamation offering a reward of five hundred dollars for the arrest of Johnston, and smaller sums for the arrest of the other participators. This, however, was the veriest farce, for

for most of the pirates were well known, and indeed they made very little attempt to conceal their identity. Several of them who were too demonstrative were arrested and brought to trial, but were acquitted by the jury in the face of the clearest evidence. Johnston himself meanwhile remained at large, finding a safe retreat among the labyrinthine passages and innumerable islands of the St. Lawrence. His immunity from arrest made him bold, and on the 7th Island, situated a few miles above Kingston, and then forming part of the Midland District. They plundered several farm-houses of money and such portable commodities as were to be found there, and then made their escape down the river. They also engaged in several other petty marauding expeditions, insomuch that they became the terror of the inhabitants along the contiguous Canadian frontier. Upon the facts being represented to Sir John Colborne, he determined to rid the neighbourhood of such an infliction, and detailed four bodies of marines to search the intricacies of the Thousand Islands from west to east. Governor Marcy at the same time made a similar investigation among the islets near the southern shore of the river, and also stationed a contingent of troops on the mainland, to prevent a repetition of such outrages as the burning of the Sir Robert Peel.

These combined proceedings proved efficatious. Johnston and his gang were compelled to retreat and disband, and for the time nothing more was heard of them.

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The story of the Upper Canadian Rebellion.
by John Charles Dent.
page 262.

WINDSOR AND WINDMILL.

.....

Early in November the filibusters began to assemble their forces in considerable numbers at Oswego, Sackett's Harbour, French Creek, Ogdensburg, and other places along the St. Lawrence. At Syracuse, Watertown and other inland centres there was also great activity among well-known "sympathizers," and messengers were constantly passing to and fro between those points and the frontier. It was clear that some movement against Canada was afoot, and timely warning was conveyed to the Provincial authorities. About nine o'clock on the morning of Sunday, the 11th of the month, the steamer United States, commanded by Captain Van Cleeve, set out from Oswego. She was a regular lake and river steamer and customarily plied between Oswego and the ports down the river as far as Ogdensburg. On the present occasion she started with about a hundred and fifty passengers on board, all, or nearly all, of whom were filibusters en route for the Canadian shore. They had with them as part of their personal luggage a large supply of arms and ammunition, which were packed away out of sight in boxed and kegs, in order that they should not be forced upon the notice of the Captain, who would be bound to take cognizance of them if they were naked before his eyes. Upon calling at Sackett's Harbour and Cape Vincent additional

additional forces and armaments were taken on board, and the steamer proceeded on her way eastward. On reaching the foot of Long Island, two schooners--the Charlotte of Oswego and the Charlotte of Toronto--were taken in tow, and lashed one on each side of the steamer. These were also crowded with men and munitions of war. One of the schooners was under the direction of "Commodore"Bill Johnton, who has already figured in the narrative; the other was commanded by "Colonel" Niles Gustaf Schobtewiski Von Shoultz, a native os Poland, who had been led to cast in his lot with the marauders from a sincere conviction that he was thereby advancing the cause of liberty. The entire expedition was nominally under the command of "General" John Ward Birge, but it was to Von Shoultz that the men specially looked for guidance.

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PUBLIC ARCHIVES OF CANADA.

History of Leeds and Grenville, 1749 to 1879.
page 51.
by Thad W. H. Leavitt.

.....

Bill Johnston, the leader of the gang that burned the Sir Robert Peel, was in Ogdensburg during the battle of the windmill, and appeared openly on the streets. He and his son left the village in a small boat, which was pursued by the Collector of Ogdensburg. Johnston, being hard pressed, landed about three miles up the river, and finally surrendered to C.T. Boshwell and A.B. James. The prisoner was immediately conveyed to Sackett's Harbor.

The prisoners captured at the windmill were conveyed to Kingston, where they were confined. A few of the leaders were hanged, some were transported, while the boys, who formed a large percentage of the force, were, through the suggestion of Judge Jones, of the Queen's Bench, set at liberty.

.....

347 Beech Ave., Toronto, July 29, 1931.

H. C. Burleigh, M.D., C.M.,
Newton Falls, N.Y.

Dear Dr. Burleigh:-

Your letter of the 28th reaches me just as I return from Toronto Reference Library. I thought my researches there were completed; but in the past three days I have unearthed and read three rare old books, two of which refer to Johnston specifically, one of which mentions him inferentially, and all of which throw considerable light on the events of Rebellion days. These are:-

"The Settlement of Upper Canada," by D. McLeod, Major-General Patriot Army, Upper Canada: Cleveland, 1841.

This book is an official chronicle of Canadian unrest and patriot invasion, from a United States standpoint. Its references to the Hickory Island affair and the burning of the Peel are intensely interesting. McLeod was a British soldier who had fought under Wellington. There is a brief sketch of him in Caniff's "Upper Canada," page 356-57.

"Narrative and Recollections of Van Diemen's Land during three years' captivity of Stephen S. Wright, together with an account of the Battle of Prescott," by Caleb Lyon, of Lyonsdale: New York, 1844.

In this book, Bill Johnston is frankly branded as a coward. But the writer, by his own words, reveals that the actual coward was "General" J. Ward Birge

"Three Years' Residence in Canada, 1837-39," by T. R. Preston: London, 1840.

The writer was an observant and philosophical Englishman who was on Government service in Canada. He mentions Lett, gives minute details about Hunters' Lodges, and draws an unforgetable word picture of conditions in this country in those days.

That item which you were good enough to copy from the Watertown Daily Times was not written at my instigation, but for my especial benefit. Sometime ago, on the suggestion of a newspaper friend at Kingston, I wrote to Mr. Harold B. Johnson, President and Editor of the Times, informing him that a surviving daughter of Kate Johnston-Hawes -- Mrs. John Uncer -- lives at Carthage, N.Y., and asking him if he could get me certain information. He put some of his own men right to work; he obtained for me an authentic picture of Kate in her later years, and an old scrapbook made up mostly by Johnston when he was a prisoner in Albany jail; and he got on the trail of those old Kate Johnston letters which he is trying to locate. Today I have a letter from him enclosing the picture, telling me that the scrapbook will be on its way within a day or two, and informing me that Mrs. Uncer still has the old canoe in which Kate carried food to her father in 1838-39. He is sending his staff photographer to take a picture of the canoe.

The scrapbook, I am informed, contains some material in Johnston's own handwriting dealing with his own and his father's family, and a lot of newspaper clippings pertaining to his career. It is of course coming on loan only; I will return it safely and promptly after I have photographed the MS. and transcribed the printed contents. I will make and send you duplicate photo prints and typewritten copies, also a copy of the Kate Johnston picture.

You will understand what a treasure this is likely to prove to be. Mr. Johnson's co-operation has been magnificent; and like your own it has been given in a spirit of unselfish good-will which makes it doubly valuable. He even asked my permission to use in his own paper an article dealing with the finding and the contents of the scrapbook. Naturally I said "Yes;" and you will probably read that article yourself before long.

I will have a talk with Mr. Snider at the earliest opportunity. Meanwhile, here is a clipping from the Telegram which may be of some interest to you.

In all probability I will be in Kingston and other eastern points next week, and I will avail myself of the opportunity to call at your parents' address. It will be a very great pleasure indeed if I can meet you there in person.

I have been reading again the material you sent me last week, particularly those portions relative to your great-grandmother's reminiscences. You have sketched a few remarkable word pictures. After you have talked with your father again, I am sure we will be able to do something that people who read it will not soon forget.

If anything is to be found about Ann Randolph and her family, it will be in old newspapers and in the memories of her descendants. I shall make a special effort to get you something along those lines.

With kindest regards, I am

Yours faithfully,

W. J. Wraith

347 Beech Ave., Toronto, Aug. 24, 1931.

H. C. Burleigh, M.D., C.M.,
Newton Falls, N.Y.

Dear Dr. Burleigh:-

Please pardon my long delay in replying to your most interesting letter of Aug. 10. I have been busy on Bill Johnston's scrapbook, which arrived about that time, and which I have to return as soon as possible; and I delayed writing until I could send you a typewritten transcript, as promised. That copy is now ready, and I shall have pleasure in forwarding it by registered mail tomorrow (Tuesday); the post office is closed this evening.

In connection with this material: there is an implied understanding between Mr. Johnson and myself that it is not to be used at present for any other than the specific purpose I have in mind, viz., the completion of my book. That, however, I feel, does not prohibit me from sending you a copy for your own information, inasmuch as our interest in Bill Johnston is mutual in its breadth and intensity.

Naturally, a copy is a poor substitute for the original. It lacks the "touch of a vanished hand." But in this instance it is probably a good deal better than nothing. You will be interested in Johnston's own account of his early life. This is not only an interesting and dramatic story in itself; it also serves to link up and explain many of the legends that have come down.

In search of more information about Mrs. Johnston, I went to Clayton last Saturday and had another interview with Mr. Marshall. He does not remember the Pirate's wife, but he remembers his parents telling him that she was a very fine woman, a good wife and mother, and that her life with "Bill" was anything but idyllic. I am making special efforts to get more information about her from another source

Permit me to thank you for bringing your own scrapbook to Kingston. Your parents very kindly permitted me to take the loose clippings to Gananoque, where I spent most of one Sunday, two weeks ago, in making typewritten notes from them. They are both interesting and helpful. When you see what use I make of them, and of the experiences of your great-grandmother, as you relate them, you will realize better than I can tell you how much I value them.

I expect to be in Gananoque again Sept.6 and 7. If you should be in Kingston on those dates, I will be very glad to meet you and have a little, intimate talk on various things.

Most sincerely,

W. J. Wraith

Memo of "War Books" of 1837-38-39, in which reference is made to Von Shoultz, or which throw some light on the enterprise in which he figured:

"Narrative of the Adventures and Sufferings of Captain Daniel D. Heustis, and his companions, in Canada and Van Dieman's Land, etc." -- Boston, 1847.

This is one of the best books for your purpose. It gives an intimate pen picture of Von Shoultz at Prescott and some interesting details about his life.

"Narrative and Recollections of Van Dieman's Land during Three Years' Captivity of Stephen S. Wright, together with an account of the Battle of Prescott," by Caleb Lyon, of Lyonsdale: New York, 1844.

This book contains bits of very graphic writing and poetic phraseology.

"Recollections of Van Dieman's Land," by William Gates, one of the Canadian Patriots: Lockport, 1850.

"The Exile's Return," by Samuel Snow, who was banished to Van Dieman's Land for participating in the Patriot War of 1838: Cleveland, 1846.

"Notes of an Exile to Van Dieman's Land (during a residence of Six years in that Island)," by Linus W. Miller: 1846.

Miller was a young lawyer of Stockton, Chautauqua Co., N.Y.

"Settlement of Upper Canada" by D. McLeod, Major-General Patriot Army, Upper Canada: Cleveland, 1841.

"Narrative of Benjamin Wait."

I have yet to consult this book.

There is another "War Book" which I should like to see, but which is not in Toronto Reference Library: A Narrative of the Prescott affair by Sebastian John Meyer. This book is referred to in Lindsey's Life of Willial Lyon Mackenzie.

347 Beech Ave., Toronto, Sept. 27, 1931.

H. C. Burleigh, M.D., C.M,.
Newton Falls, N.Y.

Dear Dr. Burleigh:-

There may be some interval between our letters occasionally; but our interest in things historical goes on like Tennyson's brook.

I am glad you found Bill Johnston's Scrapbook interesting and helpful To me it has been a god-send. It has long since been returned to Mr. Johnson in Watertown; but I have photographic negatives of some ten or twelve pages of its MSS. material, and through its printed matter I have been able to link up many loose ends of information. My negatives -- which I made myself, for I am afflicted with the photographic virus -- are good and clear, but they have yet to be put through a special process in order to give me good reproductions for the engravers. I am enclosing you two small reproductions of Johnston's own family record. Although these are not remarkably distinct -- the original writing being in brownish colored ink on paper which is turning brown with age -- they are readable I hope you may find them interesting. I also enclose a print, made from a very flat negative loaned me by a Kingston friend, of the old wharf where the Sir Robert Peel was boarded by the pirates. I now have a considerable number of pictures for my book, and within a few days I will have two more of great value -- pictures of Kate Johnston in her youth and beauty, drawn by a distinguished artist from two old originals in my possession I will be glad to send you reproductions of these

As to the book itself: Not a line of the finished copy has yet been written. Perhaps I am too methodical; but I want my material complete and accurate before I commence to use it The work of research is now practically completed. I have had to extend my research because I have altered the plan of my book to include more details about Hunter Lodges, the Battle of the Windmill, and Benjamin Lett; for this, the old scrapbook and your personal interest have been largely responsible. Two more days in the Provincial Archives, one more day in the Toronto Reference Library, and some material which Mr. Johnson will obtain for me, will be, I think, sufficient; then I will take off my coat, figuratively speaking, and go to work on the big job.

I can quite understand your interest in Von Shoultz He was one of the most picturesque and poetic figures of the Patriot War, next to Johnston and "Queen Kate." You will find considerable information about him -- some intimate, personal details -- in the "War books" of that period. I enclose you a list of six from which I made copious notes

After a hard but fascinating summer's work in collecting material, I have almost concluded that historical writing and research is no undertaking for a busy newspaperman. If finances seem to permit, I may leave the city temporarily to complete the magnum opus.

Heartily reciprocating your good wishes, and regretting that I could not get back to Kingston to see you personally, I am,

Yours faithfully,

W. J. Wraith

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BILL JOHNSTON

The Pirate of the St. Lawrence

By
J. H. Durham

SIXTY years ago, the Thousand Islands of the St. Lawrence was the theatre of much excitement. The disastrous culmination of the Patriot war at Windmill Point, below Prescott, with the trial, execution and banishment of the participants who were taken prisoners, the burning of the steamer, Sir Robert Peel, which was antedated by the burning of the steamer Caroline on Niagara river a year before, the unsuccessful hunt by officials of both Canada and the United States for "Bill" Johnston alias the "Pirate of the Thousand Islands" -- as he himself in his old age delighted to be called, served to keep up no small degree of interest throughout the country, and to add, on the part of very many, to the already high wrought feeling between the people of the adjoining countries.

In an especial manner, the interest settled upon Johnston, whose movements became invested with a romantic tinge, more because of the unusual heroism displayed by his daughter Kate, probably, than because of his own hardihood.

Indeed there is enough material in the lives ~~of~~ and doings of the father and daughter during the years of 1837, '38 and '39 to fill the pages of a modern historical novel with the most exciting episodes; but the scope of this brief sketch warrants no such ambitious flight. In fact it is our intention ~~to~~ in the near future to furnish the public with a more pretentious volume containing in detail an account of many exciting incidents at which these few pages can only hint.

Born at Three Rivers, Lower Canada, as it was then called, the scene of many stirring events, and of many a startling legend -- in 1782, the boyhood of William Johnston was spent among scenes and surroundings which no doubt had a great effect upon the after life of the man. The Forges of the St. Maurice with their grimy workmen, the stirring trade and traffic in furs, timber, lumber and shingles, the sights and scenes upon the bosom of the St. Lawrence, there broadened to many miles in width, the tales of Indian foray and massacre, of scenes during the English and French struggle for the possession of Canada, mingled with many a ghostly tale of witch and demon, which in his boyhood days were told around the family hearthstone, all wrought their effect upon the disposition of the listening boy, but only to make him more bold and daring with a desire to emulate the heroes of the oft told tales.

When about 25 years of age he migrated to Kingston, taking his parents with him. At that time Kingston was the Capital of Upper Canada. Here the young man engaged in the grocery trade and was very successful, acquiring no small amount of this world's goods.

To gratify the military spirit, which from boyhood had burned high in his breast, he joined a volunteer company, and owing to the rapidity with which he learned his tactics and his duties in general, he was rapidly promoted until he became the Orderly Sergeant of his troop, with a fair prospect of soon becoming one of its commissioned officers.

It may be well to state here, that young Johnston was possessed of something better than an ordinary education, and that in ordinary understanding he was far beyond the average. The political condition of his country had always possessed for him a keen interest; and whenever an opportunity occurred to listen to the conversation of any of Canada's leading men. he eagerly availed himself of it.

In this way it had been his fortune to become acquainted with Papineau in Lower Canada, and now, arrived at manhood and residing in Kingston, it was his good fortune not only to make the acquaintance of William Lyon Mackenzie, a leader in Canadian politics, but to become one of his chosen friends.

It is not to be wondered at that, under the tutelage of such an accomplished statesman, as time rolled on, Johnston became fully imbued with the patriotic sentiments which began to permeate the people of Canada at that time, and which, spreading wider and wider, and gaining in strength from day to day, finally culminated in the rebellion of 1837.

It is no part of my purpose in writing this brief sketch, to enumerate the grievances which the people of Canada, or at least a large part of them, had formulated against the Crown, and from which they sought relief. In brief, it was nothing more than an outward manifestation of an inward desire for liberty, that actuated the breasts of a large percentage of the Canadian people; an inward struggle toward and outward and palpable form of a republic divested of all monarchial tendencies.

In this desire on the part of a large portion of the Canadian people for independence, it is not at all strange that their neighbors on the other side of the river St. Lawrence and the Great Lakes should have felt a lively sympathy; nor is it to be at all wondered at, that when armed forces began to gather with the avowed purpose of gaining their independence, many from the United States were ready to furnish both men and money to carry on what seemed to them, in the light of the Revolution and in the later experiences of the War of 1812, a righteous cause, without for a moment taking into consideration the attitude which their general government must take in the premises, nor how it would be likely to view the matter from the standpoint of neutrality.

It is but just to both Mackenzie and Papineau, to say that an armed rebellion never once entered their minds, during their struggles for a redress of greivances at the hands of the government; but an unfortunate riot in the streets of Toronto took the whole affair out of their hands and placed it beyond their control. Another of the factors in stirring up the ill feeling was the almost universal hatred felt throughout Canada for their tyrranical Governor-General, Sir Francis Bond Head, who, when finally recalled by the Home Government, in making his way to New York to embark for England by way of Watertown, was forced to go in disguise.

Finally, armed resistance to government authority became the cry in Canada, especially along the border, and the so-called or rather self-called Patriots established several camps in what seemed to them suitable places for the purpose of organizing an army of invasion.

One of these camps was established on an island in the Niagara river, and a small American steamer, the Caroline, was chartered to carry supplies to it from Buffalo. This of course enraged the British forces at that time not well disposed toward Americans in general, and so a Captain McLeod with a party of men boarded the steamer at her dock at Schlosser, a port on the Niagara river, set her on fire, cut her from her moorings and sent her flaming over the Falls of Niagara.

This act of unwarranted vandalism produced the wildest excitement along the northern border of New York, and it seemed at one time as though the people would rush en masse to the invasion of Canada.

At this point in our story, it is necessary to go back to 1812-14, to learn what has become of the young grocer sergeant, William Johnston. The war of 1812 was on, and the young sergeant was likely to be able to gratify to the fullest extent his desire for military glory, though strange to say he was not at all in sympathy with the acts of the mother country that led up to this state of affairs, nor was he at all chary of expressing his opinions, which did not fail to bring forth the strongest criticism from his comrades who frequently advised him either to moderate his opinions or join the Yankees at once; to this Johnston would retort that right was right, and that he did not believe in fighting to uphold and perpetuate a palpable wrong.

As yet his troop had not been called into the field, but there was no telling how soon it might be; however, its members met daily and nightly at their dfill shed either for drill or to hear the news, or most likely both.

On one of these occasions, it chanced that an argument sprang up relating to the causes of the war, and when asked, Johnston gave his opinion without fear or favor? His captain, full of patriotism and whiskey, assaulted him with his cane, accompanied with a torrent of abuse not fit for publication here.

Young Johnston cared but little for the windy abuse, but vigorously resented the attack with the cane, and in return proceeded to inflict upon the captain one of the most severe physical punishments ever visited upon a human being, let alone a superior officer.

For this offence, Sergeant Johnston was tried by Court Martial, found guilty, and sentenced to a long term of imprisonment at hard labor, besides having his property confiscated.

Through means which we cannot stop to specify here he made his escape to the United States, and from that time on, the Canadian government never had a more unrelenting foe. Of course it was impossible to detain his family in Kingston, and they, too, not long after, found shelter on the American side; and while we must disapprove of many of Johnston's acts, we must also consider that he suffered great wrongs. That he had his revenge in the capture of the British mails, and in the various ways that he annoyed them, being constantly in the employ of the American Army until the close of the war, there is no doubt; and although Johnston had many noble traits of character, we must condemn many of his methods. It is hardly fair revenge to visit punishment upon the heads of innocent parties, punishment for the offences of their neighbors and fellow-countrymen, in the interruption and ~~burning~~ robbery of the British mails, burning of British passenger steamers, and other depredations committed upon the British Government, causing great hardships to innocent people who were in sympathy with him. In many instances Americans also were the sufferers.

However, it was not long after the Patriots had ventured upon arming, that Johnston began to be heard from again, and not only heard from but felt and feared. He seemed ubiquitous. Today he would be seen among the Patriots upon Navy Island, and tomorrow he would be addressing Hunter Lodges in Northern New York. The excitement of a report that a Canadian mail had been captured near Gananoque had hardly taken wings before it was followed by another startling account of the robbing of the mail only a mile or two outside the limits of the city of Toronto.

It was known that Johnston had gathered together a band of men as reckless and detirmined as himself, almost all of whom, if not quite, were or had been Canadians; and for them but more especially for Johnston, the Canadian government offered a liberal reward, but without avail.

It was now that Johnston's experience as a scout and spy for the American forces during the war of 1812-14, was of great service in more ways than one. He had not only learned methods, but he had a very intimate knowledge of the country especially on the shores of the river St. Lawrence and particularly was he acquainted with the intricacies of the Thousand Islands, among which he had lived for many years, his home being at Clayton, then called French Creek.

It was among these intricacies, these winding channels, granite cliffs and shady coverts that Johnston, with his chosen band, had their rendezvous; and so nicely concealed were they that they defied discovery. It would probably be much nearer the truth were we to say that the band had many retreats only one of which was ever found, and that in the way and manner hereinafter related.

Another personage now claims an introduction to the reader, one who played an important part in the events of the period, Johnston's daughter Kate.

The writer must be excused from giving an inventory of Kate Johnston's personal charms when a maiden, as he did not have the pleasure of meeting her until 1874, when she must have been well past the half century mark, but sooth to say she then bore much evidence of having been an exceedingly comely girl, and withal an exceedingly daring one and skilled also, as was abundantly proven many times during her eventful career.

Capable of handling skiff or canoe at all times and during almost every stress of weather, this daring girl, who idolized her father and ~~xxx~~ who in turn was idolized by him, was the sole trusted medium of communication with the outside world. If the leaders of the Patriot cause desired to communicate with Johnston it was Kate whom they sought. If in her judgment it was safe to grant an interview it was had, but not otherwise. It was she who alone knew where the rendezvous for the time being was, and who in the dead of night with the skill and address of an Indian scout, went to and fro with messages of warning or of advice, and with supplies for the garrison.

As long as the search for Johnston and his band was confined to the Canadians it was comparatively easy to avoid them, or, as they often did, capture them and then set them at liberty. In no case did any Canadian prisoners suffer any indignities at the hands of Johnston or ~~xx~~ his men. But the time came when the authorities of both Canada and the United States were everywhere looking for him. He was then a proclaimed outlaw, and a reward was offered for him of one thousand pounds sterling by the Captain General of the British forces in Canada, and five hundred dollars by the governor of New York; but so shrewdly was he kept concealed, so carefully was his place of concealment guarded, and so true were his friends, and so constant and tireless in her watchfulness was his daughter Kate, that neither searching parties nor rewards were of any avail.

During all this time Johnston held a commission as commander of the Naval forces of the Patriots, though where those naval forces were at the time, it would have been hard to discover. With the shrewd idea in mind, however, of placating the government of the United States, if possible, so far as he was concerned, he issued a proclamation or manifest, which, as it is a curiosity in its way, we give in full.

(Proclamation)

The effect of this unique manifesto was just what Johnston intended, because in the minds of the many, it was proof that neither the state nor the general government had any right to interfere with him. They considered him a persecuted man and gave him their sympathy and assistance. As a matter of fact, however, Fort Wallace was not "without the jurisdiction of the United States," though under the circumstances the authorities were willing to take his word for it rather than instigate an investogation which might lead to a demand from the British for his immediate capture by the Americans and surrender to them.

In order to get a full understanding of the foregoing, we must again beg the reader's indulgence while we retrace our steps once more. On the evening of May 29th, 1838, the steamer Sir Robert Peel left her wharf at Brockville on her way to Toronto, under the command of Capt. John B. Armstrong. The steamer was owned by both Canadians and Americans, a fact which the reader should bear in mind. She had nineteen passengers on board, and although it seems that her captain had been warned to be on his guard against trouble, he paid no heed but went on his way as usual. In those days the advantages of coal ~~xxx~~ for making steam were not known. Wood was cheap and abundant; all steamers were fitted with wood-burning furnaces, and as wood was very bulky they could only carry enough ~~xx~~ to last them for a short run, and as every person had wood to sell there were docks established along every steamboat route for the purpose of selling it to the steamers.

Arriving at one of these docks, known as McDonnell's wharf, on the south shore of Well's Island, now known as Peel's Dock, on the left of the American channel and about one and a half miles below the dock of Thousand Island Park, the steamer tied up and proceeded to take on fuel. It was a dark and rainy night; ~~the~~ the torches glared fitfully among the near-by pines as their dark branches swayed to and fro in the moaning wind.

The passengers were asleep in their staterooms not dreaming of danger. Suddenly the forest shades resounded with the warwhoop, and a score of painted savages burst from the neighboring thickets and took possession of the boat. The passengers and crew were ordered on shore with a part of the baggage, ~~the~~ the boat was rifled of some thousands of dollars, and set on fire. When burned nearly to the water's edge she was cut loose and sank in more than twenty fathoms of water about three hundred feet below the dock.

The passengers were taken in boats to Abel's island some four miles distant where a steamer found them the next day and conveyed them to Kingston.

This act of outlawry was done, it was claimed, out of revenge for the burning of the steamer Caroline on Niagara river the year before; but "two wrongs never make a right" and after this act of vandalism Johnston found himself outlawed by both governments, and as we have already seen, rewards were offered for his capture.

Indeed the officers on both sides held a consultation and formulated plans for the capture of the outlaw, and had it not been for the untiring watchfulness of his daughter Kate and her more than ordinary shrewdness, his capture would have been effected long before it was.

In the meantime Johnston had some very narrow escapes; one in particular, which shows the wonderful nerve, coolness and self-command of the principal actor. It was suspected that on this occasion, tempted probably by the reward offered , there was a traitor in the outlaw's camp; at all events, 'Fort Wallace' was discovered, and its garrison, what of it was found at home, was surprised, ~~thought~~ though not captured, as the sequel will show.

A daring young English officer, who was in Canada at this time though not attached to any branch of the active service, conceived the idea that with the help of a few men he could capture Johnston, who at that time was generally known by the soubriquet of the "Pirate of the Thousand Islands."

Disguising a dozen trusty men as sportsmen with such arms and accoutrements as were necessary to sustain their character, they secured a large sailing yacht and commenced a careful cruise among the islands in search of the lair of Johnston. That they finally obtained such directions as enabled them to locate the spot, there is no doubt; at all events find it they did, with what result our story will show.

For the further enlightenment of the reader we will state that at this time the stronghold of the Pirate was in a not very extensive cave on what was afterwards known as Whiskey Island; but so hidden was it from view, that the most careful search would have revealed it to none but the initiated.

For many days the ~~Captain~~ Captain and his followers kept a close watch on the place, until one day when the garrison had gone away they made a landing on the island, the first intimation of which reached Johnston in the guise of a fine soldierly looking man standing in the entrance to the cave, and behind whom he could see several armed men.

It flashed through the Pirate's mind in an instant that he had been betrayed and equally quick had he decided what to do. Having none of his men in the cave with him, he knew that resistance would be of no avail.

SSpringing to his feet, for he was sitting on a rude stool in front of an ample fireplace built against one of the granite walls of the cavern, he demanded:

"Who are you? What in h-ll do you want here?"

"I am Capt. John Boyd, of the English army," cooly responded that officer, "and I want you."

"Oh, very likely," responded Johnston. "Come in and we will talk about it."

Thus invited, and being willing enough to get a glance at the inside of the Pirate's den, Captain Boyd accepted the invitation and stepped inside, while his men crowded into the entrance behind him.

"Have a seat," and Johnston pointed to a keg a few feet away. The officer sat down and quietly glanced around the cavern which was really nothing more than a huge rent in the granite rock some ten feet by thirty or it may be forty feet long. Rough bunks covered with cedar and hemlock boughs and home-made blankets, here and there a keg, a box or a barrel, a rough table, some cooking utensils and occasionally a weapon standing against the wall, seemed to constitute all there was of the interior of the fort.

Beside the Pirate himself there was one other occupant of the fort although hardly one of the garrison.

This was a girl evidently some seventeen or eighteen years of age.

Captain Boyd regarded her with no little interest, concluding that she was no other than the Pirate's daughter Kate, of whom he had heard so much, and wondering at the same time whether she too would be a lawful prisoner.

His speculations along this line, however, were interrupted by Johnston, who, stepping to a niche in the rocky wall, took thence a bottle and handed it to the Captain saying: "As a visitor, Captain, you should partake of our hospitalities; but as we have no glasses, you will of necessity take them from the bottle."

The Captain took the bottle and though he placed it to his lips, he did not swallow any of the contents fearing, he scarcely knew what.

"Will your friends drink?" asked Johnston indicating the men at the door

"Not today, thank you," said the Captain, and Johnston, taking a hearty swig, showing the Captain how groundless were his fears of being poisoned, and that he had detected them, with an ironical smile replaced the bottle in its niche.

"Well, Captain," said Johnston as he filled his pipe and lighted it at the fireplace with a huge coal and seated himself upon a barrel, "what is your business with me?"

"I want you to accompany me "

"Where to?"

"Anywhere I choose."

"Oh. Kingston, probably?"

"Very likely, and you must go at once. I can delay no longer." And the Captain rose from his seat.

"I will not go to Kingston with you, Captain; but if you have no objections we will take a short trip to h-ll together. This is a barrel of powder, and this is a coal. The means are ready, and I am ready to use them. What do you say? Decide quick."

Before Johnston had done speaking, the Captain's gallant command were hurrying to their boat, and he was left alone with the redoubtable outlaw

"I confess myself beaten," said the Captain.

"It is well," said Johnston. "And now we can come to terms."

The Captain took an oath for himself and followers never to reveal the situation of Fort Wallace, nor molest Johnston or any of his followers in any way thereafter.

This protocol being drawn up, signed and sworn to, the gallant Captain was allowed to go. As he and his men sailed away along the shore of the island, the Pirate and his daughter stood out on a jutting rock waving them a final farewell. Scarcely had they turned the point of an adjacent island, when, with a roar that resembled near-by thunder which shook the archipelago, Fort Wallace disappeared in debris, and all that remained of it was ruins.

"There, Kate," said the Pirate, "like a --- fool, I left that coal of fire on the head of that barrel of powder." And that is just what he had done, blown up his own fort.

It might seem that it was an accident, but not so. The place of Fort Wallace was known, and its usefulness was ended. Headquarters must be established elsewhere, but where, no one besides the Pirate and his daughter Kate ever knew until many years after.

It was not our intention when we commenced this brief sketch of the escapades of "Bill Johnston" and his band of outlaws during the border troubles of 1837 and 1838, to give a detailed history of his life, but rather a prelude to what our next book will be when we give a full account of his whole life, and the daring deeds of his daughter Kate, "The Queen of the Thousand Islands."

Suffice it to say that he was twice captured, each time escaped, finally located in Clayton, N.Y., became a good law-abiding citizen, and brought up a family of intelligent children, all of whom settled in their native town and became representative citizens, some of the boys filling important municipal positions. He himself received the appointment of Government lighthouse keeper on Rock Island in the American channel, almost opposite Thousand Island Park, and in sight of the place where he captured, robbed, burned and sank the steamer Sir Robert Peel a few years before. At a ripe old age he died in the Walton House at Clayton, N.Y., which at that time was kept by his son Stephen Decatur Johnston.

It is understood that the original Johnston family are now all dead, though several grand-children are still living in Clayton and Carthage.

THE EVENING TELEGRAM
ESTABLISHED 1876 BY J. ROSS ROBERTSON
233 BAY STREET
TORONTO, 2
CANADA

July 10, 1931.

H. C. Burleigh, M.D., C.M.,
Newton Falls, N.Y.

Dear Dr. Burleigh:-

Your letter of the 8th inst. strikes a responsive chord.

I am interested in Bill Johnston to the extent that I am writing a book about him: not an elaborate history or formal biography, but a sort of dramatic chronicle of fact in which I am endeavoring to make the Pirate and his faithful daughter live and move once more against the background of their times.

To that end I have been gathering information during the past six months. I have read every available printed reference, visited several places in Canada, and spent one brief day in Clayton, N.Y., where I met a surviving relative, Mr. Willard R. Marshall, 141 Mary street, and saw the the Johnston family plot in Clayton cemetery.

From these various sources I have obtained quite a fund of material. I have learned something about the Pirate's family in general, and his various peace-time activities. But I have very little about his wife or her family, and there is a woeful gap in my information covering the period of 1812-14. Johnston's exploits in that war were among the greatest and -- from a United States standpoint -- most worthy of his career; but they have never been adequately recorded.

Johnston's wife, I believe, was a wholesome, restraining influence in his life. After her death -- in 1858 -- he descended to a pretty low plane. There is tragedy in the story of his declining years.

For purposes of my narrative I want all the intimate, personal details, all the authentic stories, anecdotes and reminiscences, I can get, particularly those pertaining to the period mentioned in your letter -- 1810 to 1839. You must have a veritable treasure trove of them.

An article on this subject from your pen would be, I am sure, most interesting and valuable. It is too bad to leave such material unused. In view of what you have said about other duties preventing your writing, is there any basis on which we might co-operate?

Would you care to supply whatever material you may have, to be incorporated in my book with full credit to yourself? Would you care to supply it for the same purpose and to be dressed up, along with some of my own material, into a magazine or newspaper article which would be your own property to be used as you saw fit? Would it be of any advantage to you to receive a MS. duplicate of my book, or any portion of it, as fast as it is written?

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THE EVENING TELEGRAM
ESTABLISHED 1876 BY J. ROSS ROBERTSON
233 BAY STREET
TORONTO. 2
CANADA

In any event, you are thrice welcome to any information I may have. I enclose for your reference a brief summary of the material included in my notes, any or all of which is yours for the asking.

May I say that I do not expect to make any profit out of this book. I am writing it because the story intrigues me, and because I think it is a story worth telling in more graphic and complete form than has yet been attempted.

Thanking you for your kind offer of assistance, and hoping to have the pleasure of hearing from you again at your early convenience, I am,

Yours faithfully,

W. J. Wraith

347 Beech Ave. Toronto (8) Ont.

W.

THE EVENING TELEGRAM
ESTABLISHED 1876 BY J. ROSS ROBERTSON
233 BAY STREET
TORONTO. 2
CANADA

August 5, 1931.

H. C. Burleigh, M.D., C.M.,
Newton Falls, N.Y.

Dear Dr. Burleigh:-

Many thanks for yours of July 30 giving a transcript of the editorial from the Watertown Times. As my letter dated July 29 explained the origin of the Times articles, I deferred further reply pending receipt of a booklet from Mr. Johnson. The booklet is now in my hands, and I have pleasure in enclosing you a MS. copy of an article on Bill Johnston.

This booklet, written by Major J. H. Durham, contains one short fiction story entitled "Old Gold" -- no reference to the Pirate -- and a shorter "Fact" story which purports to give some account of the Pirate's life and activities. It was published by the James Bayne Co., Grand Rapids, in 1901. Major Durham was described to me as a very unreliable historian, one who romanced a great deal; and I accept the description unreservedly. This so-called "fact story" about Bill Johnston is for the most part a tissue of inaccuracies; you will detect them for yourself. It contains, perhaps, a few facts. Most of it is, I think, the product of imagination. However, it is interesting.

I have just had another letter from Mr. Johnson in which he states that the old scrapbook will be sent forward this week, probably tomorrow, August 6. Naturally I am awaiting it with keen anticipation, as also your own further account of your great-grandmother's reminiscences. I am sure you have material even more valuable as throwing light on the Pirate's early life than even Johnston himself may have left in his own records.

I expected to have been in Kingston and Bath early this week; but circumstances have delayed my trip until Saturday. It may be that I shall meet you there after all; I sincerely hope so.

Please take for granted my warmest gratitude and appreciation for the help and co-operation you are extending.

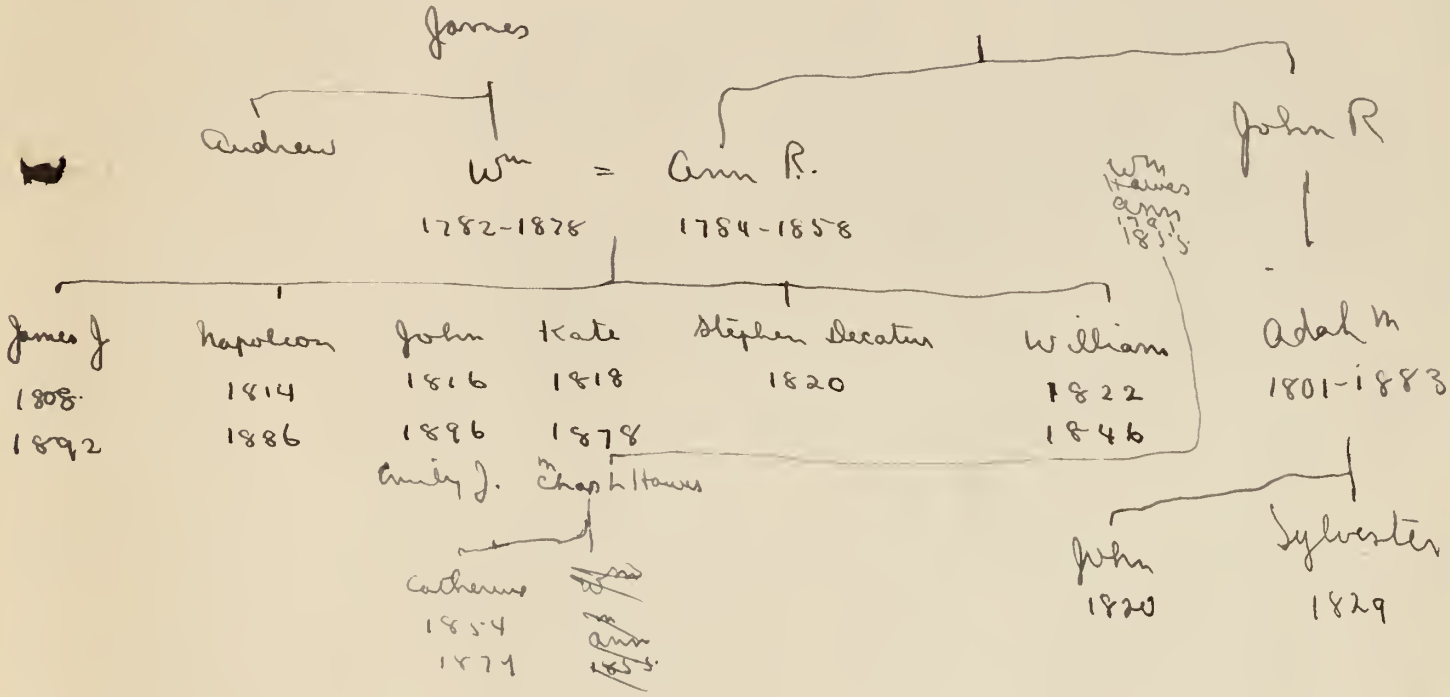
Sincerely yours,

W. J. Wraith
347 Beech Ave

CLAYTON CEMETERY Summer, 1927.

JOHN JOHNSTON-----Sept. 11, 1816--Dec. 22, 1896.
EMILY J. JOHNSTON--Sept. 15, 1811--Oct. 19, 1904.
ANN wife of WILLIAM HAWES d. Mar. 8, 1855 aged 64 yrs, 4 mos.
JAMES J. JOHNSTON----1808-1892.
WILLIAM JOHNSTON, JR.--1822-1846.
WILLIAM JOHNSTON 1782-1878.
ANN JOHNSTON(RANDOLPH) 1784-1858.
JOHN JOHNSTON
EMILY JOHNSTON
NAPOLEON B. JOHNSTON 1814-1886.
CATHERINE J. HAWES 1854-1879.
CATHERINE HAWES 1818-1878.
CHARLES L. HAWES 1819-1872.

SIMON G. JOHNSTON 1821
[illegible]ELINE H. his wife 1823
LUCY A. 1858-1892.
MINNIE E. 1858-1864.
JESSIE I. 1864-1864.



"Bill" Johnston Notes — Johnston

(J.W.B)

Johnston had a long gun shooting an ounce ball that would kill at a mile.

His long boat, painted a light blue to disguise it on the water with which color it blended, was manned by about ten oars and which could leave behind a steamboat in a race. With it he would sail up under the stern of a boat and listen to the conversation.

The house with the two owl's eye windows and a bed in the attic where grandmother used to lie and watch with a telescope with a view of the Gap where Johnston would appear and give the signal

At Sackett's Harbor in 1813 the land about the village was newly cleared and burnt black, leaving the stumps of second-growth pine. The bullets of the British cut these stumps, and after the battle grandmother and Johnston's children went out and she gathered bullets in her apron.

Jacob Johnston —

The gun was so heavy that one man could not carry it very far. It was usually kept in the boat. The men wore overshirts of the same color.

When the Bunkers moved back from Clayton to Canada, the old gun stuck out of the load. Officers asked if there was any firearms upon which grandfather pushed the end under the cover of other things in the load.

347 Beech Ave., Toronto, July 16, 1931.

H. C. Burleigh, M.D., C.M.,
Newton Falls, N.Y.

Dear Dr. Burleigh:-

I cannot very well express the pleasure your letter of the 14th inst. has given me. It is indeed refreshing and inspiring to find someone whose interest in Bill Johnston is as keen as my own.

You are quite right in your assumption that many exploits performed by Johnston in 1812-14 have been wrongly accredited to him as of 1837-39. One of these was the robbery of the mail near Brighton. I have it in the reminiscences of an old resident of Presq'isle -- published in the papers of the Ontario Historical Society -- that this robbery occurred in 1814. There was a later robbery -- April, 1939 -- at Grass Creek, below Kingston. One of the three robbers, on that occasion, said he was Bill Johnston; and Bill was consequently blamed. Actually, the criminals were Kelly, Farrow and Smith, members of Bill's pirate gang, from Grindstone Island.

Such hiatuses as these make the sifting of facts very difficult.

Practically all the information I have at present about the 1812-14 period of Bill's life was obtained from Caniff's "Settlement of Upper Canada," papers of the O.H.S., and some old book references to the U. E. Loyalists. To this I may add the references in Lossing, Hough and Haddock, and a few reminiscences by old timers in and around Bath, Ont.

I have been informed that the New York Historical Society, 170 Central Park West, New York, has all the original papers of Commodore Chauncey. Some of these may contain references to Bill Johnston; I have asked the Librarian, Mr. Alexander J. Wall, to report if and whether he can find any.

Relative to 1838, there is one point on which I am uncertain. Lossing says that Johnston was arrested in that year -- I presume he means in November -- convicted, fined $250 and sentenced to a year's imprisonment; that Kate sought and obtained permission to be with him in prison; and that at the end of six months they both escaped. Mr. Marshall, of Clayton, denies that Johnston was imprisoned; and a newspaper item of July, 1939, implies that Johnston, early in that year, was back among the Thousand Islands. Have you any newspaper clippings which will clear up that point?

As you suggest, I am sending you a bibliographical memorandum showing exactly what authorities and references I have consulted to date. Would you care to give me an outline of your own newspaper and magazine clippings? We might be able to arrange an equitable exchange.

Pending a reply from Mr. Wall, and the obtaining of more personal material about Johnston in his 1812-14 period, I have delayed the commencement of my book. I believe the reminiscences of your great-grandmother would practically fill the gap and enable me to get started. Therefore I gladly accept the proposition you have made.

WAS LEADING FIGURE IN THE PATRIOT WAR

"Bill" Johnston Was a Grocer in Kingston in the Year 1812.

L. N. Fuller had another copyright article in the Watertown, N. Y. Times recently under the heading of "Bill" Johnson, Admiral of Eastern Patriot. It reads as follows:

Much had been written and much more has been said concerning "Bill" Johnston, one of the leading figures of the Patriot War in this section. Much of that which has been written and handed down in the form of legend has been of a more or less apocryphal nature. Some have tried to put a halo over him and make of him a hero; others have painted him out as an unmitigated scoundrel, a cut throat and all round villain. Probably he was between these two extremes. At any rate, the better class of citizens did not consider him a hero during those stirring times of 1838-38.

Johnston was born at Three Rivers, Quebec, Feb. 1st, 1782. He was a loyal Canadian until the war of 1812. At that time he was a grocer in Kingston and was a sergeant of the Kingston militia. For some act of insubordination he was stripped of his chevrons and was put in the guard house. He managed to escape and fled with his family to Sackets Harbor, and from then on he had a deadly hatred of all things British. During the war of 1812 he served as spy for General Winfield Scott.

When the Patriot war broke out it did not take Johnston long to cast his fortunes with the Patriots. He had one daughter, Kate, reputed to be a handsome girl of 19, and she was sometimes called "Queen of the Thousand Isles." He also had four sons, Jim, Bonaparte, John and Stephen.

Johnston knew every foot of the labyrinth of the Thousand Islands and while he possessed the title of Admiral of the Patriot Navy of the East, his flotilla consisted mostly of row boats, but with these he was able to keep the British authorities on the move most of the time. He made himself hunted by both nations on account of his constant violations of the neutrality laws. After the Robert Peel episode Johnston found himself an outlaw with a price upon his head. He issued his proclamation which has been published in a previous chapter and fortified himself on an island on the American side of the line.

General Macomb of the United States army and Sir John Colborne, commanding the British forces at Kingston, planned a joint expedition to capture the raider and his band of eight men. The story goes, it may or may not be true, that Johnston and his crew took refuge in that natural cavern known as the "Devil's Oven" the existence of which was known only to himself and his immediate followers, and that his daughter Kate took provisions to him nightly. Finally the retreat was discovered and two of the band were captured. Johnston and the remainder took up their hiding place in a large cave near "Fiddler's Elbow" on the Canadian side, and there Kate kept them supplied with provisions, eluding the vigilance of the guards.

Spurred by the reward offered for Johnston, Captain George Chalmers Boyd, a British officer, undertook to capture him, and by bribing one of the pirate's companions, he found his hiding place. Johnston was just getting breakfast when Captain Boyd broke in and covered him with his rifle. Johnston cooly asked him inside the cave, seated himself on a barrel and engaged in conversation. Captain Boyd, so the story goes, became impatient and told Johnston that he would have to accompany him to Kingston, but Johnston, who was smoking, held his pipe over the open keg in which was something that looked like gunpowder and threatened to blow up the whole party. Boyd and his companions fled for their lives, and Johnston fled in the other direction. One story is that the barrel contained onion seeds which resembled black powder.

November found him in command of one of the schooners that was to take part in the expedition against Prescott. His part in the Battle of the Windmill was not a valorous one. While better men than he were risking their lives in a cause which was doomed to be hopeless from the first, Johnston was out of harm's way in Ogdensburg. He crossed the river in the Paul Pry but refused the entreaty of Von Schoultz to remove the wounded to a place of safety. Those who participated

in that battle were bitter towards Johnston, saying that he was at heart a rank coward.

After the Windmill had been captured, Johnston and his son, Jim, were seen entering a small boat at Ogdensburg. The revenue collector started in pursuit. Johnston landed about three miles above Ogdensburg and he and his son were finally surrounded. Johnston surrendered and he was taken to Sackets Harbor and thence to Auburn, from which place he escaped. He was captured near Rome and was turned over to the custody of the United States marshal at Albany. Again he escaped and he returned to his old haunts on the river where he evaded the officers for a year or two. After tranquility was restored, Johnston became more bold, and as no effort was made to capture him he returned to Clayton, and was appointed keeper of the Rock Island light, not far from the spot where he captured and burned the Peel. There he lived in peace and quiet, passing away in 1860, the end of an adventurous career.

The Albany Argus published a description of Johnston which was republished by the Jeffersonian. "He and those who attend him are well armed," the description says. "His own appearance with six pistols, a dirk and bowie knife in his belt is sufficiently belligerent; and he has with him, it is said, invariably the colors of the Sir Robert Peel." Little idea was had at the time of the extent of Johnston's band. The Argus estimated that he had no less than a hundred boats and a thousand men, all brogands and buccaneers, under his immediate command.

Shortly after the Peel outrage Johnston and his gang plundered three farm houses on the Canadian Island Tante, stealing over $700 in cash. Another time he overhauled the steamer Oswego and talked with the captain and crew. Johnston and his band were armed to the teeth and the leader boastingly said he was "a mark to be shot at but not to be taken."

Even the Jeffersonian, friendly though it was to the Patriot cause, roundly denounced Johnston as a pirate, and each week predicted that he would be captured and hanged. But Johnston, with his perfect knowledge of the river, defied all attempts to capture him. The flagship of his fleet consisted of a 16-oared barge manned by his companions and mounting three-pound guns. They were able to make a speed of from 12 to 14 miles an hour, and the size of the craft gave it far greater mobility than a steamboat, making it possible for them to take advantage of all the nooks and crannies that abound in the Thousand Islands.

. Blanston Sept 7/27

Simon G. Johnston 1821

Emmeline H his wife 1828

Lucy A 1858-1892

Minnie E 1858-1864

Jessie J 1864-1864

John Johnston Sept 11 1816 Dec 22 1896

Emily J " Sept 15 1821 Oct 19 1904

ann wife of Wm W Hawes

d March 1855 aet 64 yrs 4 mo

Jas J Johnston 1806-1892

William J. Jr 1822-1846

Wm Johnston 1784-1858 wife of Wm Johnston

Wm Johnson 1782-1878

John Johnston

Emily J.

Napoleon B. J. 1814-1886

Catherine J Hawes 1854-1879

Catherine Hawes 1818-1878

Charles L. Hawes 1819-1872

This is to certify that I hereby sell to H. C. Burleigh, M.D. all Office and household furniture except. 1 tea table, 1 card table, lamps, dishes, 2 mattress curtains, sewing machine and give possession Oct. 1 - 1927. minimum payment $50.00 upon balance of $950.00 minimum monthly payments $50.00 Int 6% on unpaid balances.

Grace F. Hurlburt

Herbert H. Hurlburt

H. C. Burleigh.

Oct. 1. $50.
Nov. 5 - 100 check #1
" 25
Dec 6 150 " #42
200
Jan 7 " #61
Feb 8 300

Paid in Full.
Mar. 7 - 28
Grace F. Hurlburt.

JOHNSON

Province of Quebec. } Dated the twenty fifth Day of May
Anno Domini 1789

THE Bearer hereof Sir John Johnson Bart.

being entitled to Sixteen thousand five hundred & forty three Acres of Land, by His Majesty's Instructions to the Governor of this Province, ~~———~~ (received the Isle Tonteau Lake Ontario) consisting of sixteen thousand five hundred & forty three acres in Full of the said Proportion, in the District of Mecklenburg and having taken the Oaths, and made and signed the Declaration required by the Instructions, he is hereby authorized to settle and improve the said ~~Lot~~ Land, without delay; and being settled thereon, he shall receive a Patent, Grant or Deed of Concession, at the expiration of Twelve Months from the Date hereof, to enable him to hold an Inheritable or Assignable Estate in the said Lot.

Lt. Gov. &c.

On the back of the original the following appears

Sir John Johnson
Isle Tanti Described.
No 2480
---- undisposable

Township 1st & 2nd of Amherst Island Ontario

Description of Isle Tonte, now called
Amherst Island, lying & being situate
in the Lake Ontario, opposite to Ernest Town,
& in the Province of Upper Canada, County of
Ontario, Midland District granted to the
Honorable Sir John Johnson Knt & Baronet
29 Dec.r 1788, and assigned to him the 25 of may 1789
by John Collins Esq.r Deputy Surveyor

Commencing at a Point, at the westerly end
of the Islands, opposite to a small Island, called
the Pea Force, & from thence running round the
Islands, on the Shore, at low water Mark, unto the
first aforesaid Point, & place of beginning — Containing
Sixteen Thousand, four hundred & forty three acres; for
which, 2,363 acres & 24/100 parts, are reserved in a
certain Block of Lands, for the Clergy, adjoining to the
Township of Camden, in the Midland District, Numbered
Letters T C.

S.O. 30 August 1797 —

D Smith Surv.r

On the back of original
is the No. 2480
Townships papers of Amherst Island
Ontario

Armstrong 26.29.35

Bartels 27
Bell 4.28
Boshwell 7
Bingo 8
Burleigh 21
Baker 22
Bull 22
Brisco 26
Boyd 33.34

Connor 22
Cairns 22
Cunningham 22
Coulter 22
Clark 18
Crisdale 6
Cook 2.13.28
Curtis 2.14.15.27.28
Carlon 1.14
Chatterson 27

Dillon 28.29
Daniel 1.14.15.28
Durham 39

Falick 15.27
Fulford 22
Fetherengham 26

George 13.15.27
Gardner 17
Gibson 22
Gunsolus 27
Gilbert 29
Gates 42

Hunkley 2.5.14.15.28
Hough 1.27
Holmes 13.27
Hawes 20
Ham 27
Heuston 42

Juel 1.14.15.28
Johnson 5.13
James 7
Jones 29

Lewis 22
Lockwood 18.19
Leavens 22
Landers 22
Lyon 42

McLaughlin 13.27
McLean 22
McBratney 22
McConnell 28
McDonnell 34
McLeod 42

Merritt 13.27
Myers 22
Miller 27.29.42
Milligan 29
Marshall 31
Meyer 42

Randolph 2.16.15.22.44
Rankin 5
Rush 13.27
Richmond 22
Richardson 23
Rouse 26.28.29
Reid 40

Solmes 23
Shorey 1.14.15.28
Smith 4.13.27
Stinson 17
Stuart 19
Simpson 22
Stafford 22
Sexton 22
Striker 23
Simons 29
Snow 42

Turney 22
Trumpour 26.29
Trigg nee Pegg 44

Van Vlack 5
Vrooman 51

Welch 6
White 22
Washburn 22
Wright 27.42
Wait 42

Priest 26.29
Parker 17
Pegg 15.44
Parks 6
Perry 4

Young 5